ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY STATEMENT

Policy Title: Digital Accessibility

APS Number: 6011

APS Functional Area: Information Technology

Brief Description: CU is committed to communicating information to all individuals in a manner that enables them to achieve their academic and professional goals and aspirations.

Effective: January 1, 2019 (Pending)

Approved by: President Bruce D. Benson (Pending)

Responsible University Officer: Vice President of Administration

Responsible Office: Office of Information Security and Compliance

Policy Contact: Office of Information Security and Compliance

Supersedes: N/A

Last Reviewed/Updated: January 1, 2019 (Pending)

Applies to: Universitywide

Reason for Policy: To define roles and responsibilities to ensure that CU maintains accessibility in the digital environment, the university has established a digital accessibility program. Governance authority rests ultimately with the President and Chancellors; this policy defines roles and responsibilities to assist the President and Chancellors.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 require, that higher education institutions afford all qualified individuals with equal access to programs, services and activities, and effectively communicate with individuals with disabilities.

In addition to complying with the law, CU is ethically committed to communicating information to all individuals in a manner that enables them to achieve their academic and professional goals and aspirations. To maximize CU potential to achieve its legal and ethical commitments in the digital environment, the university has established the following policy to complement its digital accessibility program.

II. POLICY STATEMENT

A. Each campus Chancellor, or designee, shall be responsible for providing digital accessibility standards and establishing appropriate compliance and governance structures. At minimum, each campus standard shall detail requirements for:

- Course syllabi, textbooks and other course materials
- Compliance with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 AA for web sites and applications.
- Closed-captioning and audio description of audio-Visual materials
- Digital signage
- Procuring goods and services
- Process for providing access when known accessibility barriers exist
- Campus governance to ensure transparency and risk management
1. When implementing this policy the campuses will consider the following principles:
   - Unified commitment to inclusiveness through improving digital accessibility.
   - Increasing awareness and empathy to improve campus climate for students and staff with disabilities.
   - Coherent policy and standards around the procurement, development, implementation and support of system-wide websites, services and applications to ensure their accessibility.
   - Clear accountability for accessibility at system, campus, and departmental levels.

B. Annually, each Chief Information Officer will provide a digital accessibility status (changes to standards, barriers to compliance to standards, identified Accessibility barriers for broadly used systems) to the CU IT Governance Committee.

C. CU IT Governance has established as CU Digital Accessibility Working group. Annually, the committee will provide recommendations for changes to the goals, principles, or policy to CU IT Governance. Members are appointed from each campus by the CU IT Governance Committee and will include representatives who are responsible for accessibility for IT systems, support of students and employees with disabilities, and procurement of IT services. The CU IT Governance will appoint a chair who will provide periodic updates. Additionally, the working group has the following goals:
   - Guidance and support of accessibility during procurement, development, implementation and support of system-wide websites, services and applications.
   - Coordinate the development and maintenance system-wide accessibility education and training resources for all System employees.
   - Establish and support accessibility testing processes and standards (expectations for internal testing as well as requirements for third-party testing).
   - Promote CU’s accessibility efforts by locally and nationally.

D. Faculty and staff who use, create, purchase, or maintain ICT for university programs, services, and activities in the scope of their employment are responsible for making it accessible in accordance with this Policy and the accompanying ICT Accessibility Standards referenced below. Faculty and staff should consult with the campus authority for more information regarding responsibilities and advice on best practices.

III. DEFINITIONS

IV. RELATED POLICIES, PROCEDURES, FORMS, GUIDELINES, AND OTHER RESOURCES

A. Administrative Policy Statements (APS) and Other Policies

B. Procedures

C. Forms

D. Guidelines

E. Other Resources (i.e., training, secondary contact information)

F. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

V. HISTORY

- Adopted January 1, 2019 (Pending)