LSU WEB AND TECHNOLOGY ACCESSIBILITY

LSU entered into an agreement with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights to make all online and digital content accessible and compliant with Federal regulations by August 2019. Materials that must be compliant include:
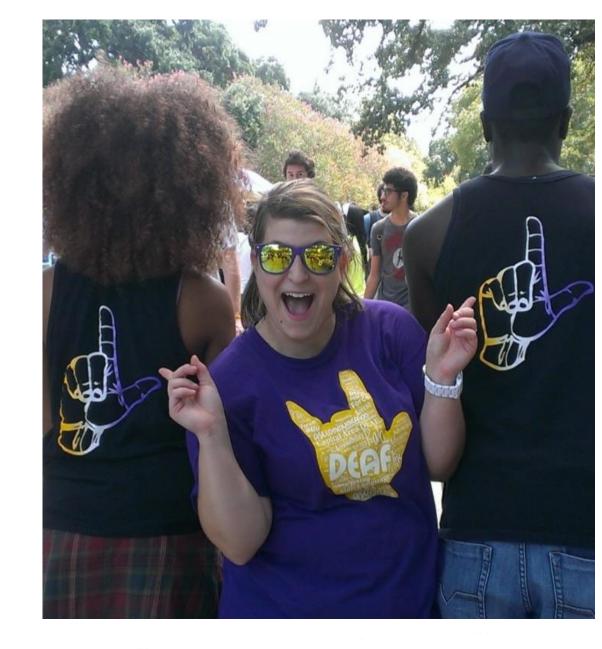
- Websites

- Software and Applications, i.e. Moodle, Workday, etc.

- Digital course materials that constitute communication

  - PDFs, Word, PPT, Videos, eBooks, and any other digital content

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What Has Been Done?

- Established campus-wide working group (OAWG)

- Worked with UsableNet to conduct website audits and establish Accessibility links on all websites

- Established an intensive communication and awareness campaign

- Established New Content and Remediation plans in conformity with OCR agreement

- Revised policy statement (PS 26) that received final approval on September 6, 2018
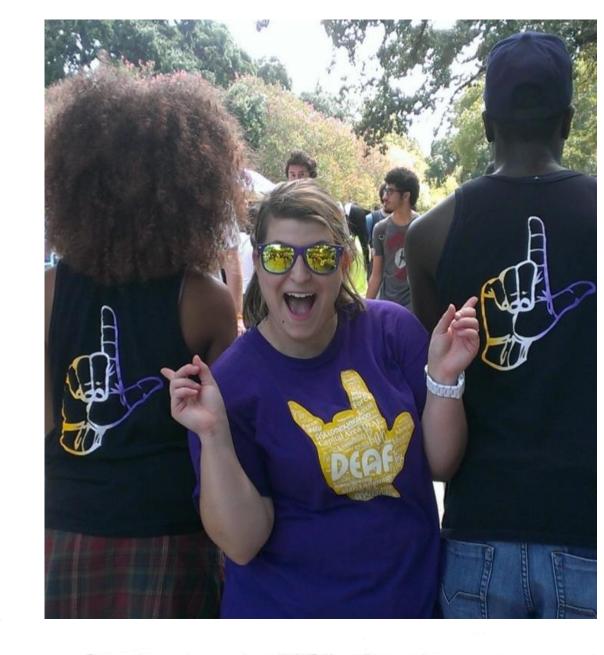
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What is Being Done for YOU?

- Started Remediation of all OU Campus and most of WordPress sites with the @lsu.edu domain.

- Created and rolled out campus-wide training for website remediation and new content development for units whose websites are built in LSU's implementation of OU Campus or Wordpress

- Created both a blended and online course for faculty and staff training – Designing and Teaching Accessible Courses – offered starting November 5th

- Created an online hub full of how-to's, video tutorials, GROK articles and FAQs for quick reference – to be unveiled this month

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What is Being Done for YOU?

- Faculty Technology Center (FTC) will be available to provide consultations for faculty needing assistance

- FTC will offer workshops starting in January

- Providing access to captioning services

- A pilot program has been working with faculty members to develop or update course materials in Moodle

- OAWG continues to meet weekly and make progress on this project

Accessibility vs. Accommodations

- Two components to creating accessible web content:

    1. Make all online materials proactively accessible

    2. Support accommodations for individuals where needed

- When an already accessible course or online/digital material cannot meet the needs of a specific individual with disabilities, accommodations are then utilized.

- OCR has determined that all online course materials and LMSs are subject to legal communication standards and therefore must be accessible prior to any requests for accommodations – this ruling has been explicit since 1996.

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Overall, LSU is a public institution receiving public money. Therefore, all digital information is made available on behalf of a public institution and must be accessible – not just for public-facing websites. Plus, being proactively accessible to all possible students is the right thing to do.