

# 5 Steps to Make Your Course More Accessible



With the implementation of new ADA accessibility guidelines, now is an ideal time for faculty to review and refine course materials (learn more about the new [ADA Title II](#) guidelines). Here are five essential actions you can take to make your Canvas course more accessible for all students.

## 1 Add Descriptive Alt Text to Images

- Use alt text to describe images that convey important information.
- Mark decorative images appropriately.

[Learn how to write helpful alt text to describe images.](#)

## 2 Use Proper Headings for Structure

- Apply heading styles (Heading 2, 3, etc.) using the Canvas Rich Content Editor.
- Organize content hierarchically to help screen reader users navigate your pages.

[Learn how to properly structure documents and other content.](#)

## 3 Create Meaningful Links

- Use clear, descriptive text for links (e.g., “View the syllabus” instead of “Click here”).
- Avoid pasting full URLs into your text - use anchor text instead.

[Learn best practices for hyperlink accessibility.](#)

## 4 Check for Color Contrast & Avoid Color-Only Meaning

- Use high-contrast color combinations for text and background.
- Don't rely on color alone to convey meaning - pair it with labels or symbols.

[Learn how to check for accessible color contrast in non-web documents and images.](#)

## 5 Run the Canvas Accessibility Checker

- Before publishing a page, click the Accessibility Checker in the Canvas editor.
- Fix any issues flagged to improve usability for all students.

[Learn how to use the Canvas Accessibility Checker in the Rich Content Editor.](#)

**Bonus Tip:** Make sure any linked documents (like PDFs or Word files) follow the same practices: use alt text, proper headings, accessible links, and run a built-in accessibility check.

Visit the [CIRT Accessibility website](#) or contact CIRT ([cirtlab@unf.edu](mailto:cirtlab@unf.edu)) for support.