ACCESSIBLE COURSE DESIGN

Husson University is committed to accessibility in all forms to reach all learners. Instructional designers and instructors are asked to consider the POUR Framework when developing course content in order to achieve accessibility.

The POUR Framework is:

▶ **Perceivable**

- Add alt text for images, diagrams, and charts.

- Caption all videos and provide transcripts for audio.

- Ensure color contrast (min. 4.5:1). Don't rely on color alone. Use labels, patterns, or shapes.

- Allow content to be resized without losing clarity or function.

▶ **Operable**

- Make all materials keyboard accessible.

- Use clear headings, labels, and instructions.

- Avoid content that auto-plays, flashes, or times out without adjustment.

- Ensure timed assessments can be adapted for students with testing accommodations.

▶ **Understandable**

- Write in plain, consistent language.

- Provide clear instructions.

- Keep navigation predictable and consistent across modules.

- Use "Student View" in Canvas to see how content appears.

- Use descriptive link text (e.g., "Read Chapter 1" instead of "Click here").

▶ **Robust**

- Use proper HTML tags (headings, lists, table headers).

- Test materials with screen readers when possible.

- Use Canvas Rich Content Editor and Accessibility Checker.

Practical Course Design Checklist:

☑ **Documents (Word, PDF, PPT):**

- Use built-in heading styles, lists, and tables with headers.

- Add alt text for images.

- Check accessibility using built-in checkers (Word, PowerPoint, Acrobat).

☑ **LMS Content:**

- Structure with headings (H1, H2, etc.).

- Avoid long blocks of unformatted text.

- Ensure all links are descriptive.

- Use tables for data not layout.

- Create accessible tables by using row/column headers.

☑ **Multimedia:**

- Caption all videos (auto-generated captions must be corrected).

- Provide transcripts for audio content.

- Avoid flashing or strobing animations or overly "busy" visuals.

☑ **Assessments:**

- Ensure assessments are screen-reader compatible.

- Provide sufficient time (adjustable for accommodated testers).

- Use multiple ways for students to demonstrate knowledge, where possible.

Resources:

WCAG2.1 Quick Reference
WebAIM Web Content Accessibility Guidelines
Accessible Educational Materials: CAST: National Center on Accessible Educational Material

HUSSON UNIVERSITY
CENTER FOR STUDENT SUCCESS
ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

Questions?
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