

**AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
CONTINUING EDUCATION**

Web Accessibility (Beginning)

ITNX 3001

(12 hours)

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Description: Hands-on course - incorporating Section 508 and WCAG Guidelines - designed for people who want to incorporate accessibility techniques into websites, and increase usability and interoperability of web based materials. From adding alt tags to enabling users to resize the on-screen text, the techniques covered in this class will produce smarter and faster sites with smaller file sizes and easier maintenance.

Prerequisites: Familiarity with HTML.

Objectives: Every student will be able to:

- Identify issues surrounding accessible web design
- Describe why web accessibility is important
- Recognize barriers to effective accessibility
- Apply relevant HTML/XHTML coding to pages
- Apply CSS1 elements to separate style from content
- Demonstrate ability to test pages for accessibility with the use of validators and WCAG 2.0 Checkpoints
- Effectively locate and use recommended tools
- Demonstrate an understanding of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act

Rationale: The World Wide Web is exactly that – world wide. Gone are the days when a developer can specify what browser and what platform the end user will be using to view his/her pages. Today, we develop content for the web that can be used by a number of audiences and devices. Developing with web accessibility in mind will not only help you satisfy state, national and international guidelines, it will help all your users access the information you are putting online. Disabled users, users of assistive technology and even those who just need to modify their online experience will benefit dramatically.

Required Material: None

Type of Course: Short Course

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Evaluation: Students will be evaluated on their competency in performing a variety of hands-on exercises created to insure the student has achieved all course objectives throughout the course, and class participation. In order to grant CEU credit for a course the students must be able to complete assessment exercises for each part of the course given by the instructor. The instructor will validate each participant's achievement of the course objectives by signing and awarding individual certificates of completion.

Course Outline:

Understanding Web Accessibility: Accessibility and Why It Matters **½ hour**

- Why is accessibility on the web important?
- Types of disabilities
- Accessibility Myths
- **Activity** - Identifying accessibility problems

Standards and Laws **1 hour**

- Introduction to Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act
- W3C's WCAG
- HB 2819
- **Activity** – Compare laws and guidelines around the globe

Assistive Technology **½ hour**

- What are assistive technologies?
- How does a screen reader work?
- Software and hardware
- **Activity** - Exploring assistive technology with developer tools and simulations.

Writing Valid, Well-formed, Syntactically Correct Code **2 hours**

- The importance of well-formed, syntactically correct code
- Introduction to validation services
- **Activity** - Testing pages using validators, suggesting and making changes to code to promote validity.

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Creating Accessible Content: Images, Links, Color **2 hours**

- Text equivalents for images, image maps
- Graphs and Charts
- Links, navigation and the ability to skip navigation
- Use of color
- **Activity** - Addressing accessibility issues by applying proper structure and valid code.

Pitfalls to Creating Accessible Content **1 hour**

- Pop Up Windows
- Scripting
- Applets and Plugins
- Timed Responses
- Flickering
- **Activity** – Find examples of these issues on existing sites

Creating Accessible Content – Tables **1½ hour**

- What makes a table accessible?
- Content linearization: Data tables versus using tables for format
- Using tools to test the readability of tables
- Simple data tables vs. Complex Tables
- Applying the scope, id, and headers attributes.
- WAI WCAG Priority 1 & 2 checkpoints for tables
- **Activity** - Design an accessible page based on WAI WCAG Priority 1 & 2 checkpoints for tables

Creating Accessible Content – Forms **1½ hour**

- Accessibility issues surrounding forms.
- Using the Input, fieldset and legend elements, and the label, id, title, and value attributes.
- The difference between **must**, **should**, and **may** for the web developer.
- **Activity** - Testing and retrofitting an existing forms-based page.

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Separating Content from Presentation

1 hour

- Making websites accessible with CSS: Separating content and structure.
- **Activity** - Design or retrofit an accessible page by applying CSS.

Accessibility Testing

1 hour

- Explore testing options
- Compare free vs. paid options
- Creating an Accessibility Testing Plan
- **Activity** – Practice using accessibility testing tools; Prepare an accessibility testing plan