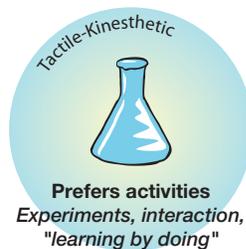
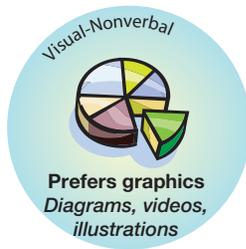


Universal Design

Everyone learns in different ways. Making your website accessible can benefit everyone, regardless of whether or not they have a disability. For example, improvements that help blind users can also help sighted users who learn best by listening instead of reading.

Universal Design for Learning means applying flexible goals, instructional and assessment strategies for different learning styles.



Learn More

EPLT has created two manuals on accessibility, which are freely available on our website at

<http://eplt.educ.ubc.ca/accessibility>

Download these manuals as PDF or view them online to learn more about what you can do to improve your own websites.

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Diverse Students in a Digital World

Accessibility for Everyone



What is web accessibility?

Web accessibility is about making sure all the information on your website is available to all users, regardless of any disability they may have or special technology they may be using.

Do I need to know about it?

If you build or maintain any web pages, sites or online courses used by students, faculty or staff of the University, you should be aware of basic accessibility principles.

Why is it important?

The changes you make to your site for accessibility reasons are critical for students with vision, motor, cognitive or hearing problems.

Many changes can actually improve the experience for everyone, because by making your site more accessible, you make it more usable, too.

Students with disabilities are placed at a disadvantage academically if they don't have access to the same materials as other students. It's our responsibility to ensure that everyone has equivalent access.

How does it help?

- When you describe a complex graph in text, you assist students who cannot see as well as students who learn better by reading.
- When you transcribe and/or caption MP3s and videos, you help both students who cannot hear and students without computer speakers.
- When you write clear, concise paragraphs and highlight important points, you help students with cognitive disabilities - and you make the site easier for everyone to use.

How do I make my website accessible?

Making your site accessible involves changes to the HTML code that makes up your site, and thinking carefully about layout and structure. Most of the changes you need to make in your site are quite easy! Here are a few brief examples.

Navigation

Keep it short, clear, and consistent on every page.

Signposts & breadcrumbs

Highlight the location of the current page in the navigation.

Images

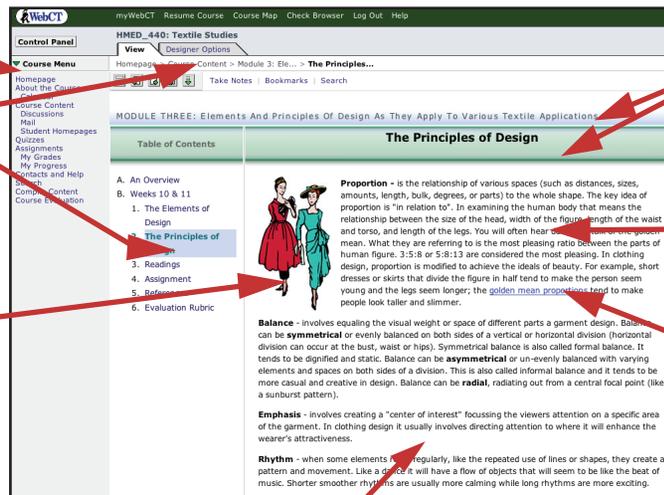
Set ALT text for all images:

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If an image is purely decorative and contains no information, set blank alt text or alt="".

If an image is very complicated or has small text, use the longdesc attribute to describe the image more fully.



Headers

Use <h1>, <h2>... tags for headers.

Fonts

High-contrast, sans-serif fonts - defined in CSS as relative, not absolute sizes.

Avoid putting lots of text in an image, as users can't resize it and screenreaders can't read it.

Links

Use clear, unambiguous text for links. Avoid using "click here".

Writing

"Chunks" of text in short paragraphs are easier to read. Readers tend to skim pages looking for key points, and save long documents to print and read offline. Highlight key points in bold.

