



Accessibility Policy

Center for Academic Success and Achievement Disability/Access Services

I. SCOPE OF POLICY

This policy addresses the creation or provision of course materials in accessible format and applies to all courses and materials, offered for credit or noncredit sponsored by Framingham State University.

II. PURPOSE

The University holds the responsibility for upholding its obligations incumbent upon it under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) as amended and in doing so provides equally effective alternative methods for the provision of educational content and materials that is accessible regardless of its form of delivery (digital or print).

III. POLICY STATEMENT

Framingham State University will provide for an equitable educational experience that gives access to all members of the University who are otherwise qualified participants enrolling in courses or programs at the University. Course materials, regardless of format will be provided in an accessible format with the duty to decide any necessary learning accommodations to these materials being determined as required by the authoritative laws or their enabling rules

IV. ASSIGNED ROLES

Faculty: The faculty assigned to the course are responsible for the selection of the content and learning materials associated with each course per their agreed upon responsibilities in the current collective bargaining responsibilities.

The faculty must utilize their selected materials in accessible formats for students giving preference to the most accessible content for each course.

Students: Students who experience difficulty accessing learning or course materials should inform the Office of Disability/Access Services through the Center for Academic Success and Achievement (CASA) to review the concern and as necessary engage in the accommodation process.

Disability/Access Services: Disability/Access Services will engage in an interactive process with the student to ultimately determine any required accommodations to provide for accessible materials. Disability/Access Services will provide either through their own efforts or through the contracting of necessary services to support the accommodation for the duration of the course.

V. DEFINITIONS

A. Accessible Information Technology: technology that can be used by people with a wide range of abilities and disabilities. It incorporates the principles of universal design, whereby each use is able to interact with the technology in ways that work best for them.

B. Interactive Process – An informal dialogue between the student and the University representative used to identify the precise concerns resulting from the disability and determine potential reasonable accommodations that could overcome those areas.

- C. Learning Management System: A digital content management system that houses primary digital course content for an academic course. May contain links to external content as well as original content created and produced by a faculty member. Also contains course management information including tests, quizzes and “gradebook” functions for faculty and students.
- D. Course Readings/Materials: content determined, selected and presented by a faculty member to support the learning objectives and activities of a course. These materials may take the form of print, digital, audio, or other means.
- E. Third Party Course Sites: Digital course content connected to the University course but licensed by a third party to the University for purposes of supporting the course learning objectives. May contain practice guides, homework assignments, quizzes, etc...

VI. POLICY STANDARDS

This policy supports the University’s mission and goals in addition to satisfying legal obligations to eliminate discriminatory practices based on disability in the learning environment.

VII. LEGAL OR REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

- ✦ Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), as amended, 29 U.S.C. § 794 and its implementing regulation at 34 C.F.R. Part 104
- ✦ Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 the ADA), 42 U.S.C. § 12131 et seq., and its implementing regulation at 28 C.F.R. Part 35.

VIII. RELATED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Faculty Textbook Selection Procedures (see MSCA Contract)

IX. ENFORCEMENT

Senior academic officers with oversight for the faculty and the Disability/Access Services will assure compliance with these stated standards and respond to any known concerns to maintain full compliance and accessibility.