

Huron is committed to achieving barrier free accessibility for persons with disabilities studying, visiting and working at Huron. As part of this commitment, there are a variety of service, groups and committees on campus devoted to promoting accessibility and to ensuring that individuals have equitable access to services and facilities. To help provide the best experience to all members of the campus community (students, staff, faculty and visitors), this website offers information on accessibility-related resources available to Huron.

AODA

The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA) seeks to remove barriers and achieve accessibility for persons with disabilities in a number of key areas. More than 15% of Ontarians have a disability – more than 1 in every 7 people.

Under the AODA, the Province of Ontario requires public sector organizations in Ontario to meet certain standards for customer service, information and communications, employment, transportation and the design of public spaces.

For Huron, the expectations of the AODA are very consistent with Huron's commitment to creating and maintaining a barrier-free community for all who come to Huron to learn, work, visit or access services. By law, Huron leaders, faculty, staff, contractors and volunteers are required to complete an accessibility learning program. This will help to ensure that our interactions and practices meet the accessibility standards.

More information on the AODA can be found under: [AODA & Standards](#)

Web Accessibility

What is accessibility?

Web accessibility is the inclusive practice of making websites usable by people of all abilities and disabilities. When sites are correctly designed, developed and edited, all users can have equal access to information and functionality.

What is AODA?

The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) establishes accessibility standards for providing service to people with disabilities in five key areas of daily living: customer service, information and communications, employment, transportation, and built environment.

The goal is to make Ontario accessible by 2025. The Act requires that designated public sector and large organizations meet the established accessibility standards for their websites.

What does it mean for Huron?

Huron is fully committed to conform to the AODA standards according to the following schedule:

- **By January 1, 2021**

- All Internet websites and web content must conform with WCAG 2.0 Level AA (with two exceptions relating to captions and audio descriptions for video).

Content published on a website before January 1, 2012 is not required to be compliant with WCAG 2.0. However, people with disabilities can still request information to be provided in an accessible format under the Section 12, "Accessible Formats and Communication Supports."

Web content, including documents such as Word and PDFs, posted after January 1, 2012 will need to be accessible as per the regulation.

Need help finding information on accessibility?

[Create accessibility](#)

[Make your Word Documents Accessible](#)

Does my website / web program need to comply with AODA?

AODA requirements apply to all websites and web content, including web-based applications that an organization directly controls or manages through a contractual relationship that allows for modification of the product.

AODA Guidelines

Guidebook: AODA is [here](#) (PDF, 263KB)

What is WCAG?

[World Wide Web Consortium \(W3C\)](#) is an international independent group that determines the protocols and standards for the web. A primary initiative of the W3C is to develop accessibility standards, which are known as [WCAG](#) (Web Content Accessibility Guidelines).

These guidelines have three levels of success: Level A, Level AA and Level AAA. Level A represents the minimum requirements for accessibility, with Level AAA being the highest level of requirements.

Understanding WCAG 2.0 principles and guidelines

There are 12 guidelines outlined in four main categories:

1. **Perceivable** - web content is made available to the senses (sight, hearing, and/or touch)

- 1.1 Text alternatives: provide text alternatives for any non-text content so that it can be changed into other forms people need, such as large print, braille, speech, symbols or simpler language.

- 1.2 Time-based media: provide captions and other alternatives for time-based media.
- 1.3 Adaptable: create content that can be presented in different ways (for example simpler layout) without losing meaning.
- 1.4 Distinguishable: make it easier for users to see and hear content including separating foreground from background.

2. Operable - interface forms, controls, and navigation are operable

- 2.1 Keyboard-accessible: make all functionality available from a keyboard.
- 2.2 Enough time: provide users enough time to read and use content.
- 2.3 Seizures: do not design content in a way that is known to cause seizures.
- 2.4 Navigable: provide ways to help users navigate, find content, and determine where they are.

3. Understandable - content and interface are understandable

- 3.1 Readable: make text content readable and understandable.
- 3.2 Predictable: make web pages appear and operate in predictable ways.
- 3.3 Error-recovery: help users avoid and correct mistakes.

4. Robust - content can be used reliably by a wide variety of user agents, including assistive technologies

- 4.1 Compatible: maximize compatibility with current and future user tools.

Sites of Interest

[Student Development Centre](#)
[Rehabilitation Services](#)
[Duty to Accommodate](#)
[Mental Health Support](#)