

# Accessibility Requirements for Faculty-Led Study Abroad or Away Programs

## Overview

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) has issued a Final Rule under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (April 2024), requiring all state and local government entities, including public colleges and universities, to ensure that their web content, learning management systems (LMSs), and mobile applications meet accessibility standards.

## What This Means for Faculty

Beginning with Minimester 2027, all course syllabi and digital materials—including those used in study abroad and away programs—must comply with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 Level AA standards.

This includes:

- Course syllabi, readings, handouts, and forms
- Content uploaded to LMS platforms (Canvas, Blackboard, etc.)
- Videos, images, and digital course materials
- Mobile apps or websites used for program logistics or coursework

## Key Compliance Dates

Entity Size | Compliance Deadline

Institutions serving ≥ 50,000 students | April 24, 2026

All other public institutions | April 26, 2027

## Why Accessibility Is Especially Important for Study Abroad and Away

Accessibility ensures all students—regardless of ability—can fully participate in your program. When abroad, students may face additional barriers such as:

- Limited access to assistive technologies or medical accommodations
- Language or infrastructure differences that compound accessibility challenges
- Reliance on online tools and mobile apps for communication, safety, and coursework

Designing your course materials to meet accessibility standards before departure guarantees equitable participation, reduces last-minute issues, and upholds Towson University's commitment to inclusive excellence.

## Faculty Action Steps

- Review your course materials and syllabus for accessibility compliance.
- Consult the [Faculty Center's Accessible Course Design](#) resource
- Use Towson's [LMS accessibility checker](#) to identify and fix issues.
- Plan for accessibility early—especially when creating or adapting materials for international environments.

## Questions or Support

Contact [FACET](#) for guidance on accessible course design and study abroad/away program preparation.