

Oakland University
Resolution Agreement
OCR Docket #15-16-2210

Oakland University (the University) voluntarily submits this Resolution Agreement (Agreement) to the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR), for the purpose of resolving the above-referenced complaint alleging violation of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794, and its implementing regulation at 34 C.F.R. Part 104, (collectively, Section 504) and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. § 12131 *et seq.*, and its implementing regulation at 28 C.F.R. Part 35 (collectively, Title II). This Agreement is voluntarily submitted by the University and does not constitute an admission that the University violated Section 504 and Title II.

“Accessible,” as used in this Agreement, means a person with a disability is afforded the opportunity to acquire the same information, engage in the same interactions, and enjoy the same services as a person without a disability in an equally effective and equally integrated manner, with substantially equivalent ease of use. A person with a disability must be able to obtain the information as fully, equally, and independently as a person without a disability. Although this might not result in identical ease of use compared to that of persons without disabilities, it still must ensure equal opportunity to the educational benefits and opportunities afforded by the technology and equal treatment in the use of such technology.

The University agrees to take the following actions:

1. By October 31, 2017, the University will draft and submit to OCR for review and approval a policy and/or procedures to ensure information provided through the University’s website(s) (online content) is accessible to students, prospective students, employees, guests, and visitors with disabilities, particularly those with visual, hearing, or manual impairments or who otherwise require the use of assistive technology to access information (Web Accessibility Guidelines and Procedures). The Web Accessibility Guidelines and Procedures will, at minimum, accomplish the following:
 - a. identify and adopt the specific technical standard(s) the University will use to determine whether online content is accessible (e.g., W3C’s Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG), Web Accessibility Initiative - Accessible Rich Internet Applications Suite (WAI-ARIA) techniques for web content, or other standard or combination of standards that will render online content accessible);¹

¹ This Agreement does not imply that conformity with WCAG, WAI-ARIA and/or other electronic and information technology standard is either required or sufficient to comply with the requirements of either Section 504 or Title II. The technical standard(s) serve only as guidance with respect to whether the online content is accessible.

- b. designate at least one full-time equivalent employee(s) whose job duties include coordinating and managing the University's Web Accessibility Guidelines and Procedures, and whose department will be provided with sufficient resources and authority to fulfill those job duties, and all other commitments relating to accessibility within this Agreement;
- c. provide a procedure to ensure that online content and information obtained through online content provided or developed by third parties is accessible. This procedure should direct administrators and staff to ensure that any University acquisition or use of online content provided or developed by third parties (e.g. vendors, video-sharing websites such as YouTube, other open sources) that the University chooses to make available on its website will afford equal opportunity to the educational benefits and opportunities afforded by the technology and equal treatment in the use of such technology;
- d. annual training for any staff (e.g. administrators, faculty, support staff, student employees) responsible for creating or distributing information with online content to students, employees, guests, and visitors with disabilities, including, but not limited to, education on the Web Accessibility Guidelines and Procedures and their roles and responsibilities to ensure that web design, documents, and multimedia content are accessible. The training and education will be provided, in whole or in part, by qualified personnel with sufficient knowledge, skill, and experience to understand and employ the technical standard(s) adopted by the University, or through an online training/education program vetted by said qualified personnel.
- e. an accessibility audit (Audit) to be completed at regular intervals under the direction of the University's Chief Information Officer, during which information provided by the University through its online content is measured against the technical standard(s) adopted in the Web Accessibility Guidelines and Procedures. All problems identified through the Audit will be documented, evaluated, and, if necessary, remediated within a reasonable period of time; and
- f. inform students, prospective students, employees, guests, and visitors that they may report violations of the technical standard(s) used by the University, file a formal complaint through its Section 504 and Title II grievance procedure, and/or contact the University's Chief Information Officer with any accessibility concerns. The Web Accessibility Guidelines and Procedures will include the name and/or title, office address and telephone number, and email address of the University's Chief Information Officer or designee.

Reporting Requirement: By October 31, 2017, the University will provide for OCR's review and approval the Web Accessibility Guidelines and Procedures drafted consistent with Item 1.

2. Within 60 calendar days of OCR’s approval of the University’s Web Accessibility Guidelines and Procedures, the University will post the Web Accessibility Guidelines and Procedures in a logical and readily identifiable location on its website and will provide notification to students, prospective students, employees, guests, and visitors. The notification will occur by written correspondence, email, and/or website notification and will further provide information on where the Web Accessibility Guidelines and Procedures is located on the University’s website and, alternatively, where individuals may request or obtain a copy of such document.

Reporting Requirement: Within 60 calendar days of OCR’s approval of the University’s Web Accessibility Guidelines and Procedures, the University will provide documentation to OCR verifying its implementation of Item 2, including a copy of the notification(s) and the URL (web address[es]) for the location of its Web Accessibility Guidelines and Procedures.

3. Within 180 calendar days of OCR’s approval of the University’s Web Accessibility Guidelines and Procedures, the University will complete an initial Audit to examine whether information provided through online content is currently accessible, measured against the technical standard(s) adopted by the Web Accessibility Guidelines and Procedures. The University will document the results of the Audit and develop a corrective action strategy based on the audit findings that includes relevant reasonable timeframes for completion. The adoption and implementation of a corrective action strategy referenced in Items 3 and 4 will not be construed as or deemed an admission of a violation of this Agreement, Section 504, or Title II.

Reporting Requirement: Within 180 calendar days of OCR’s approval of the University’s Web Accessibility Guidelines and Procedures, the University will provide to OCR for review and approval a copy of its Audit report and corrective action strategy, including the timeline for implementation of the corrective action strategy, and the credentials of a third party web accessibility consultant and/or employee of the University with sufficient knowledge, skill, and experience to understand and employ the technical standard(s) adopted by the University that will be certifying (pursuant to Item 4 below) that the University’s online content meets the technical requirements adopted in the Web Accessibility Guidelines and Procedures and .

4. Within 30 calendar days of OCR’s approval of the corrective action strategy, including the timeline for implementation of the corrective action strategy and the credentials of the University’s consultant and/or responsible employee described above, the University will begin implementation of the corrective action strategy to make its online content accessible to individuals with disabilities.

Reporting Requirements: Within 180 calendar days of OCR’s approval of the corrective action strategy, the University will submit documentation to OCR confirming implementation of the corrective action strategy consistent with established timeframes, including certification to OCR that its online content meets the technical requirements adopted in the Web Accessibility Policy. The University will also provide to OCR the bases for this certification including copies of any accessibility evaluation or report, dates of

correction actions, and copies of any reports from interim audits conducted pursuant to the Web Accessibility Guidelines and Procedures.

5. Within 180 calendar days of OCR's approval of the University's Web Accessibility Guidelines and Procedures, the University will develop and conduct training and education on how to ensure accessibility in web design and implementation. The training and education will be provided by qualified personnel, or through an online training/education program vetted by said qualified personnel, to all staff involved in web design and implementation, including but not limited to administrators, teachers, staff, and volunteers who develop content for online instruction and/or post material on University webpage(s)/portal(s). The training will include, at a minimum, education about the Web Accessibility Guidelines and Procedures and the roles and responsibilities of University staff to ensure that web design, documents, course content, and multimedia videos or content are accessible.

Reporting Requirement: Within 180 calendar days of OCR's approval of the University's Web Accessibility Guidelines and Procedures, the University will provide to OCR the name(s) and credentials of the individual(s) who conducted the training/education; a list of individuals, by name and title, who attended the training/education; and a copy of any training/educational materials (e.g., pamphlets, presentation materials).

General Requirements

The University understands that by signing this Agreement, it agrees to provide the foregoing information in a timely manner in accordance with the reporting requirements of this Agreement. Further, the University understands that during the monitoring of this Agreement, if necessary, OCR may visit the University, interview staff and students, and request such additional reports or data as are necessary for OCR to determine whether the University has fulfilled the terms of this Agreement and is in compliance with Section 504 and its implementing regulation at 34 C.F.R. § 104.4, and Title II and its implementing regulation at 28 C.F.R. §§ 35.130 and 35.160. Upon completion of the obligations under this Agreement, OCR shall close this case.

The University understands and acknowledges that OCR may initiate administrative enforcement or judicial proceedings to enforce the specific terms and obligations of this Agreement. Before initiating administrative enforcement (34 C.F.R. §§ 100.9, 100.10) or judicial proceedings to enforce this Agreement, OCR shall give the University written notice of the alleged breach and sixty (60) calendar days to cure the alleged breach.

This Agreement will become effective immediately upon the signature of the University's representative below.

Oakland University

/s/

7-24-17

President or Designee
Victor A. Zambardi
Vice President for Legal Affairs
and General Counsel

Date