

Policy Title: Information Technology Accessibility	Approval Date: 9/4/2008
Policy ID: 5004	Effective Date: 9/4/2008
Oversight Executive: VP for Information Technology & CIO	Review Date:

1. Purpose

This policy is established to support the Radford University community in promoting equal access opportunity to information technology by the application of accessibility standards, guidelines, training, tools and methods consistent with higher education. The aim is to provide this opportunity in a setting that fosters independence and meets the guidelines of the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. This policy sets forth accessibility standards and guidelines that reflect best practices for achieving the accessibility of information technology for use by persons with disabilities.

2. Policy

The procurement, development, and/or maintenance of information technology and user support services for persons with disabilities will be aligned with accessibility standards specified in Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act and "Web Content Accessibility Guidelines" from the World Wide Web Consortium, appropriately tailored to the specific circumstances of the university.

Accessibility standards must be designed to evolve and change, as newer technologies are introduced and user needs change. At the same time, the standards will maintain a consistent framework for accessibility training and support services. University information technology development, maintenance, training, and support personnel who are responsible for information technology procurement, programs, and services will possess an appropriate level of technical knowledge and experience related to accessibility standards for persons with disabilities.

3. Procedures

An overview of the university accessibility standards, guidelines, training, tools, and methods will be posted at the Radford University website.

4. Definitions

Accessibility: refers to the University objective that everyone within the university community, regardless of physical or technological readiness, will have the opportunity for appropriate access to information technology.

5. Related Information

U.S. Government – Americans with Disability Act and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 **Section 504**

U.S. Government – the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 **Section 508** standards

The **World Wide Web Consortium** (W3C) is an international organization that develops inter-operable technologies (technologies that can communicate with each other), e.g., specifications, guidelines, software, and tools, to lead the Web to its full potential. W3C is a forum of information, commerce, communication, and collective understanding. Of particular relevance are the **Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 1.0** (<http://www.w3.org/TR/WAI-WEBCONTENT>) Copyright © 1999 W3C (MIT, INRIA, Keio) and the **Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0** (<http://www.w3.org/TR/2005/WD-WCAG20-20051123/>) Copyright © 2005 W3C® (MIT, ERCIM, Keio), All Rights Reserved. W3C liability, trademark and document use rules apply.

6. Policy Background

The Commonwealth of Virginia Restructured Higher Education Financial and Administrative Operations Act of 2005 and Chapter 824, Virginia 2008 Acts of Assembly grant institutions additional authority over financial and administrative operations, on condition that certain commitments to the Commonwealth are met. Radford University's Management Agreement with the Commonwealth provides full delegated responsibility for management of the institution's information technology architecture, infrastructure and ongoing operations, of which IT accessibility is a part. This delegation includes the authority to conduct these activities in accordance with industry best practices appropriately tailored for the specific circumstances of the University, in lieu of following Commonwealth-determined specifications. This policy documents the industry best practices with which the University will align its IT accessibility activities.

7. Approvals and Revisions

Approved By: Radford University Board of Visitors

Date: September 4, 2008