Technology Accessibility (504/508/ADA Compliance)

Napa Valley College is committed to ensuring effective communication with all students, faculty, and staff – irrespective of disabilities. Additionally, Institutional Technology is working to ensure technological needs for all campus members are met both inside and outside of the classroom. To this end, the college will ensure that all computer software and systems will permit all persons to acquire the same information, engage in the same interactions, and enjoy the same services with equivalent ease. In addition to improving the standard of education for all students, we aim to work within the guidelines laid out in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Americans with Disability Act of 1990 (ADA), which follows:

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability in programs and activities by public universities receiving financial assistance from the U.S. department of education. Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 requires Federal agencies to make their electronic and information technology (EIT) accessible to people with disabilities."

The following document lays out Napa Valley College's current implementation and policy concerning the above federal acts (504,508, ADA) in two mostly distinct categories:

(A) On Site Accessibility – Ensuring computer hardware, software, and equipment on the college campus are accessible to all student through use of assistive technology or otherwise.

(B) Off Site Accessibility – Ensuring the college website and Learning Management Systems (LMS) are accessible away from the college's premises.

A. On Site Accessibility and use of Assistance Technology

Napa Valley College provides equal access to an education to all persons registered in classes, participating in college programs, and employed by the Napa Valley Community College District. Our goal is to encourage students and staff with disabilities to become independent and assertive participants in their own educational and career process. Accessibility in classes, facilities, extracurricular activities and all student support services is our ultimate objective. Napa Valley College is committed to insuring that technology hardware, software, and equipment utilized by students and staff with disabilities in classes, in student services, and during college activities are compliant with Title V, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 Section 504, section 508, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

For additional details, please review the Napa Valley College Assistive Technology Plan.

B. Off Site Accessibility and use of college and LMS websites

Napa Valley College uses several internet based services to help campus members interact with the college at both an educational and administrative level. These services have become essential tools and as such, must be accessible to all students regardless of disability. Napa Valley College is committed to insuring access and ease of use for students and staff with disabilities both on and off campus.

Learning Management Systems (LMS)

Napa Valley College, along with almost all California community colleges, have adopted Canvas as the principal LMS. This platform is currently being utilized for Distance Education, Hybrid, and even on-campus classes. The Canvas platform, by default, is inline with many common features of a 508 compliant webservice. Some of these include:

- Modern HTML and CSS technologies and a commitment to the W3C's Web Accessibility Initiative
- A Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (a tool that administrators and decision-makers can use to evaluate Canvas' conformance with the accessibility standards)
- Available guidelines and tutorials for general accessibility
- Compatibility with common Screen Readers such as VoiceOver, JAWS, NVDA

For more information, please visit the website: Accessibility in Canvas

Napa Valley College Distance education websites follow the guidelines laid out in the following document: 2011 Distance Education Accessibility Guidelines

Subscription based Productivity Software

Napa Valley College now provides the subscription based webservice Microsoft Office 365. This gives students use of several web-based programs including Microsoft Word, Excel, and Outlook. The Microsoft platform guarantees its commitment to 'design for everyone' by developing and adhering to the following accessibility standards:

- EN 301 549
- U.S. Section 508
- WCAG 2.0 (ISO/IEC 40500)

For more information, please visit the website: Microsoft Accessibility

Napa Valley College Website

The Napa Valley College website underwent a redevelopment in recent years to both give the website a consistent look and function while also updating the website's accessibility standards. Both the initial redevelopment as well as current user training standards following the content guidelines laid out in the follow document:

- Napa Valley College Website Graphic Style and Content Guide

Student and Employee Services Website

Napa Valley College currently uses the Ellucian webservice Webadvisor3.1 primarily for course registration as well as a variety of student and employee services. Ellucian uses XSLT stylesheets to translate data into HTML which are already 508 compliant.

Reporting Violations of 504/508/ADA compliance:

Any person who has a disability and is alleging failure to accommodate should contact the Section 504 Coordinator, Rebecca Scott, Dean of Library and Learning Resources, phone (707) 256-7417.
For more information, please visit the website: Student Complaint and Grievance Process