

Longwood University Faculty Senate
**PROPOSAL/POLICY COVER
SHEET**

This cover sheet is intended to provide information to members of the Faculty Senate about a new proposal/policy or about revisions to an existing proposal/policy. **If you are proposing a new policy, then attach the text of the policy to this form. If you are proposing a change to an existing policy, then attach the text of the current policy with any deleted language marked by a strikethrough and with new language marked by an underline. If you are deleting a policy, then attach the text of the policy to be deleted.**

COMMITTEE(S) that authored or sponsored this proposal:

Accessibility Resources and Academic Affairs

TOPIC: Syllabus Accessibility Statement

BACKGROUND (Provide a brief statement describing the origins of this proposal, the nature of the problem it addresses, and the work completed to devise the proposal):

The federal rule updating Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, passed in 2024, requires all state and local government agencies to provide for digital accessibility in compliance with WCAG 2.1. Level AA for digital content. After discussions with staff in Accessibility Resources, CAFE, and DEC, updates to the statement were developed with Academic Affairs. By providing a way for students to report any challenges with accessing course materials, we can demonstrate that we are beginning to comply with the new federal rule.

SUMMARY OF NEW POLICY OR PROPOSED CHANGES OR DELETIONS TO AN EXISTING POLICY (Provide a brief list or statement describing the content of the policy or the proposed changes or deletions):

The updated statement expands the statement to include information for all students to discuss with their instructor any challenges related to digital accessibility. The proposed changes also clarify language for students with approved accommodations about the process for discussing a plan with their instructor.

RATIONALE FOR THE POLICY OR PROPOSED CHANGES (Provide a brief statement as to why the new policy, the changes, or the deletion is needed):

With this revised statement, students have a way to report that they are encountering difficulty accessing course content, especially digital content. This not only brings us in compliance with a new federal rule, but also signals that Longwood supports Universal

[Design for Learning \(UDL\) principles.](#)

During academic year 2026-2027, we will work to bring digital teaching materials into alignment with UDL principles and in compliance with the new federal rule. DEC is purchasing the Ally tool in Canvas that will help identify and facilitate making digital materials more accessible. There will be professional development opportunities beginning in late April and continuing through next academic year to support faculty in learning about UDL and the Ally tool.

Routing information and signature lines:

Date submitted to Senate Executive Committee for Consideration:

Action(s) Taken:

Date first read at Faculty Senate:

Action(s) Taken:

Date final action taken by Faculty Senate:

Action(s) Taken:

Senate Chair: _____

Date submitted to the PVPAA (within 5 working days of Senate approval):

Action(s) Taken:

PVPAA: _____

Date: _____

Date submitted to other administration:

Action(s) Taken:

Administrator: _____

Date (within 15 working days of PVPAA's signature): _____

Date submitted to the Board of Visitors:

New language is underlined and in red.

Accessibility ~~Resources Office~~ Statement

Longwood is committed to creating a learning environment that meets the needs of its diverse student body. If you anticipate or experience any barriers to learning in this course, including trouble reading, viewing, or interacting with any [digital](#) materials, please let your instructor know so the issue can be addressed.

If you have a disability and require accommodations, please meet with your instructor early in the semester to discuss your learning needs. If you wish to request reasonable accommodations (note taking support, extended time for tests, etc.), you must register with the [Accessibility Resources Office \(ARO\)](#) Brock Hall, (434) 395-2391 prior to those accommodations being implemented. The office will require appropriate documentation of disability. All information is kept confidential. If you have already been approved for accommodations through ARO, please send your instructor your accommodation letter through AIM and request to discuss an implementation plan for the course.