



Simple Syllabus and Accessibility

Why it Matters

Every year higher education sees a record number of lawsuits related to digital content accessibility. 2023 was another record-setting year for digital accessibility lawsuits targeting higher education.

Accessible digital content is vital in higher education. It ensures inclusivity for students with disabilities, accommodates diverse learning styles, offers flexibility and enhances learning outcomes. These are long-term benefits that also conform to existing legal requirements. Accessible digital content also promotes ethical considerations like fairness and equal opportunities for all learners.

The National Center on Disability and Access to Education conducted an analysis of the costs of a higher education digital accessibility legal case and found settlements can easily exceed \$400,000. Should a case go to litigation, this dollar figure can increase substantially. No institution is immune from Higher Education accessibility complaints or lawsuits and their resultant settlements. University of Minnesota Duluth maintains a [list of high-profile cases](#). Schools name range from smaller community colleges to some of the largest and most prestigious universities in the United States.

Costs can exceed
\$400,000
for Digital
Accessibility
Settlement

While the risk of legal action is a critical factor to consider, the importance of accessibility in higher education extends beyond simply adhering to regulations. It involves actively crafting solutions that cater to the unique requirements and preferences of all users, irrespective of their abilities.

Students with disabilities represent nearly **20%** of the undergraduate population

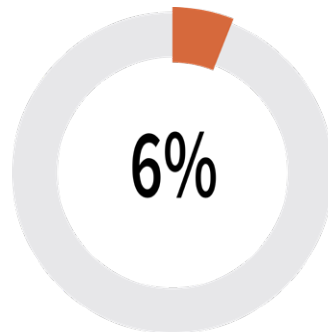
According to the U.S. National Center for Education Statistics, a little less than 20% of undergraduate students experience a form of disability. Among graduate students, this percentage decreases to 12%, in part because students with disabilities are less likely to secure a Bachelor's degree when compared to their peers without disabilities.

The benefits of accessibility aren't limited to students with disabilities. Numerous learners naturally thrive when presented with accessible resources and approaches that align with their individual learning styles and past experiences. Removing barriers that prevent interaction with or access to websites, digital tools, and technologies guarantees every student has an equal chance to learn and excel.

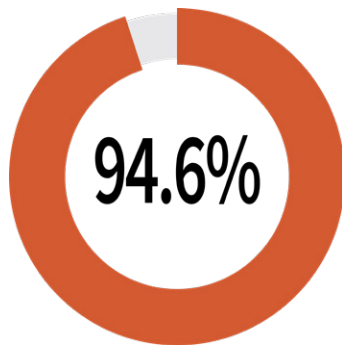
The Simple Syllabus Difference

Simple Syllabus is a dedicated advocate for inclusivity and accessibility in education. Our unwavering commitment to accessibility goes beyond mere compliance—it's a fundamental part of our mission. We work tirelessly to ensure that our solutions empower educators to create accessible course materials and syllabi that benefit every student. By providing intuitive tools and resources, we aim to make education accessible to all, fostering a more inclusive learning environment. With Simple Syllabus, accessibility isn't just a feature; it's a core value guiding everything we do.

Multiple studies indicate educational institutions struggle to meet accessibility standards. In 2022, a [Winona State University research team](#) analyzed 62 higher education course syllabi to gauge their accessibility for individuals with disabilities. The findings revealed only 6% of the syllabi met the required accessibility criteria.



On average only 6% of syllabi meet accessibility standards

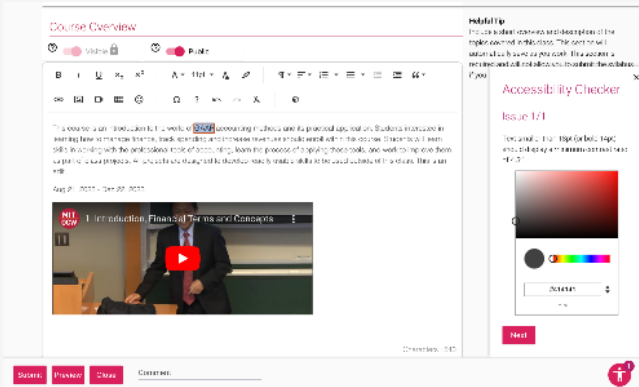


Accessibility rates climbed to 94.6% after the implementation of Simple Syllabus

Adhering to accessibility standards when creating syllabi can pose challenges, but, as our name suggests, Simple Syllabus simplifies the process. Sauk Valley Community College, shares our belief that every student deserves equal access to educational resources. The team at SVCC used Simple Syllabus and took significant steps to enhance digital accessibility, turning this belief into a reality. The hard work and dedication of the Sauk Valley Community College community paid off, with syllabus accessibility rates skyrocketing to nearly 95%. This remarkable achievement reflects SVCC's ongoing commitment to ensuring that education is accessible to everyone, regardless of their abilities or disabilities.

Simple Syllabus is the only syllabus management solution with a **dedicated accessibility checker** that guides a user through all the steps required to make a document accessible. Unlike other digital technology providers, Simple Syllabus does more than just vaguely mention how we follow accessibility best practices. Here's what makes our commitment to accessible syllabi different.

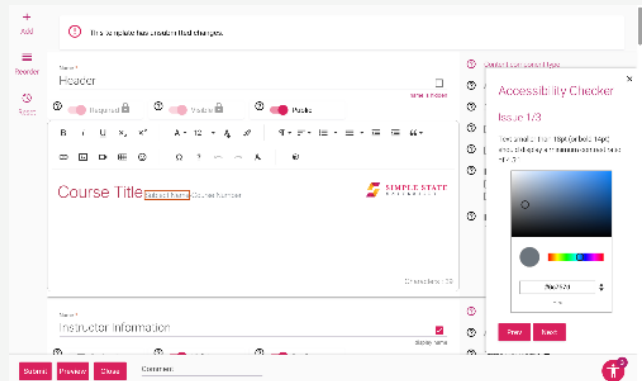
Easy-to-Use Document-Wide Accessibility Checker



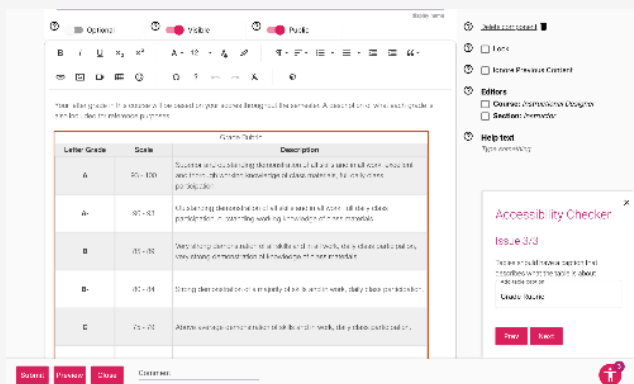
A simple and intuitive interface ensures the instructor experience is streamlined, allowing them to focus their valuable time on building high-quality course content. Simple Syllabus delivers on this ethos of design through a flat editing experience and a comprehensive accessibility checker that will review an entire syllabus, Course Master, or template.

Guarantee Textual Accessibility

The Simple Syllabus accessibility checker monitors potential issues on text contrast, ordered lists, heading paragraphs, and other text-related accessibility challenges. This ensures improved readability for visually impaired students and enhances content comprehension, resulting in a more equitable learning experience.

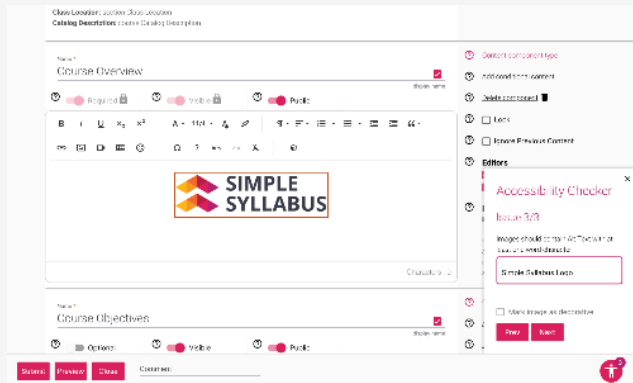


Enhance Table Accessibility



The Simple Syllabus accessibility checker meticulously reviews tables to identify and address potential accessibility issues, recognizing the inherent challenges in table presentation. It ensures tables are formatted with proper headers and captions to facilitate comprehension for all users, and ensures screen readers can properly communicate table-based content to visually impaired users.

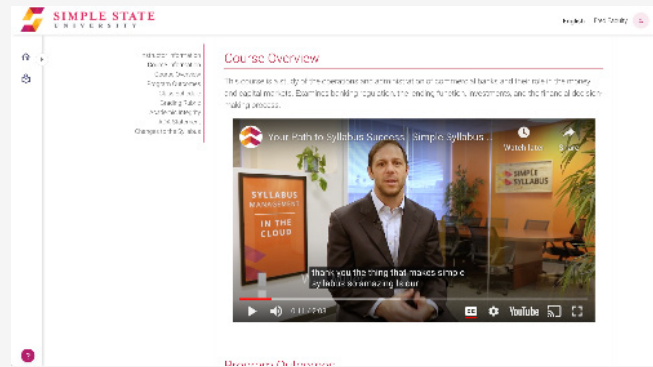
Optimize Image Accessibility



Images with missing alt tags will be flagged for the user to review. Alt tags on images in a syllabus offer an accessibility benefit by providing concise and descriptive text alternatives for non-text content. This is particularly advantageous for users with visual impairments who rely on screen readers, enabling them to understand the content and context of the images.

The No Compromise Syllabus Solution

Simple Syllabus stands out by preserving visually engaging and rich content in syllabi while ensuring full accessibility. Unlike platforms that strip away visual elements, Simple Syllabus maintains educators' ability to create visually appealing syllabi without compromising on accessibility and inclusivity. Simple Syllabus is committed to delivering content that caters to diverse learning styles and needs, while enhancing the overall learning experience.



Accessibility goes beyond simply meeting regulatory standards; it involves creating solutions that cater to the needs of all users, regardless of their disability status. Numerous learners naturally lean towards familiar learning methods that have proven effective for them, even without specific accommodations. Prioritizing accessibility ensures that every student, with or without disabilities, can engage effectively in the learning process.

About Us

Simple Syllabus

Simple Syllabus is in the business of helping institutions of higher learning communicate more effectively with students through digital class syllabi. Centralized and template driven, Simple Syllabus enables instructors to quickly personalize and publish interactive class syllabi—all while ensuring compliance with accreditation and regulatory requirements.