General Principles for Accessible Web Design

# For a complete list of accessibility requirements refer to:

[**http://www.csun.edu/accessibility/508/508home.html**](http://www.csun.edu/accessibility/508/508home.html)

1. Use “alt” attribute on “img” elements, images as submit buttons and area elements of image maps.
2. Use “longdesc” attribute or preferably add information about the image directly into the context of the webpage which serves everyone who uses your page, not just those with disabilities, and also long description can be displayed in a structured format (e.g. bulleted list)
3. Apply color contrast requirements to your web page:
   * Ensure that information conveyed by color differences is also available in text.
   * Ensure that the following contrast ratios exist between text (and images of text) and background behind the text:
     + Ratio of at least 3:1 for the text that is at least 18 point (if not bold) or at least 14 point (if bold).
     + Ratio of at least 4.5:1 for the text that is less than 18 point (if not bold) or less than 14 point (if bold).
4. Use table markup only to present tabular information by using id and headers attributes to associate data cells with header cells in data tables. Layout tables must linearize and no “summary” attribute should be used for Layout tables with Role Presentation.
5. Use the “title” attribute of the frame and iframe elements.
6. Avoid using screen movements without a mechanism to pause, stop or restart.
7. Include a specified text indicating a link to the reader or plug-in for all pages that have links to files that require a special reader or plug-in.
8. Utilize full keyboard operability by:
   * Applying default tab order.
   * Using "activate" rather than "focus" as a trigger for changes of context.
   * Avoiding keyboard traps in which the keyboard focus can become “stuck”.
9. Use labels for Form Controls.
   * Use “FOR” attribute of “Label” element to associate label to a unique ID of a form control.
   * Use the “title” attribute to identify form controls when the label element cannot be used.
10. Organize webpage structure so the content may be read without style sheets.
11. Provide heading at the beginning of each section of content by using heading elements “h1-h6” to identify headings.
12. Use proper link text to describe link purpose. A combination of “Title” attribute and “aria-label” property can be used to provide descriptive information about the target of the anchor element.
13. Include a Resize Text mechanism into your webpage.