
Fall 2021 Updates

The EIT Advisory Council continues to meet on a monthly basis. The group continues to work towards achievement of action plan items as listed within the [EIT Accessibility Plan](#).

The EIT Advisory Council developed an accessibility statement for the [Events Planning webpage](#) and an [Events Planning Accessibility Checklist](#), and provided assistance to this committee to infuse planning for accessibility and universally designed events on campus.

Efforts to educate the campus about accessibility have continued. To further incorporate professional development and education into the EIT Accessibility SUNY Broome Plan, a new member, Dr. Stephanie Malmberg, Assistant Dean for Distance Learning & Professional Development, was added to the EIT Advisory Council. Weekly Professional Development digests are distributed campus-wide, and often have a focus on accessibility, such as the one on [Disability Awareness](#) and [Disability Critical Race Theory](#) (DisCrit).

DeQue University, an accessibility educational platform provided by SUNY has been extended for SUNY-wide use and is available until May 2022. A new campus-based certificate, *Digital Content Accessibility Essentials* was developed and offered to the campus by the EIT Advisory Council, in conjunction with Professional Development. This new certificate allows users to choose from one of the following courses: MS Word Accessibility Techniques; MS PowerPoint Accessibility Techniques; or Basic PDF Accessibility.

To enhance campus-wide communication about EIT Accessibility, the [SUNY Broome EIT Accessibility website](#) was created and published Fall 2021. A direct link to the Accessibility Resource Office was added to this page.

The Accessibility Resources Office and Campus Life co-hosted a screening of Crip Camp on 10/21. The offices are working together with the EIT Advisory Council to explore other ways to educate students about accessibility and to enhance the inclusion of the student voice into the accessibility processes on campus, and to explore student activities focused on accessibility/disability awareness and advocacy.

The Accessibility Resources Office created a short, six-minute video [Student Perspectives on Online Teaching & Learning](#) for use in faculty and staff workshops/training. The video is a presentation of quoted responses to questions posed to students about their learning experiences, barriers encountered in classes, and best practices of instructors that assist students in accomplishing course expectations successfully and on time. The video focuses on the use of student quotes rather than individual students in order to illustrate the experience of the collective students versus an individual experience.

To further enhance Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), several questions, including those related to accessibility, have been incorporated into the academic program review process.

These include an examination of the specific ways the program supports DEI; the education of current and new faculty about DEI; and how the program ensures courses and related materials are accessible to students (e.g. document accessibility, accessibility of the physical space, captioning of online learning materials).

To further enhance communication about and consideration of accessibility into the planning processes for the physical space on campus, Kim McLain worked with Dave Ligiekis, Director of Facilities Management, to review the composition of CPAC. A committee member to represent the EIT Advisory Council was added to the membership list. Kim McLain and Lisa Hughes alternate attending meetings. This addition of an EIT Advisory Council member provides for further discussion and review of accessibility considerations for the campus' physical space.

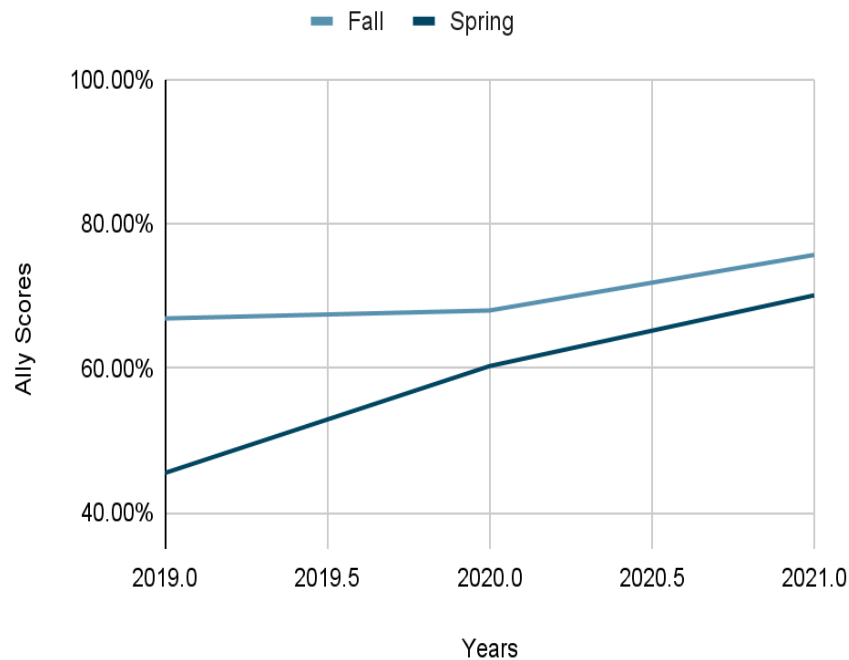
Standard 1: Web Accessibility

- The [Web Accessibility Policy](#) was approved by the Board of Trustees on August 19, 2021. The [Web Accessibility Procedure](#) was approved by the Executive Council on July 1, 2021.
- There were no web accessibility concerns submitted to the [Web Accessibility Reporting Form](#) during the Fall 2021 semester.
- MarCom has published a page on their website detailing their audio-visual accessibility processes. This page also contains a link to the [Web Accessibility Reporting Form](#) on which additional information has been added indicating inaccessible video and audio content may be reported using this form.
- The college website is undergoing a redesign.
 - Redesign of the primary content area is complete. Prior to this phase, the website met the majority of WCAG AA 2.1 standards. It now meets majority of WCAG AA 2.2 standards, with ongoing monitoring using Siteimprove and manual testing in order to strive for 100% compliance.
 - Manual testing for accessibility and quality user experience was also done prior to publishing the redesign with representatives from the following areas: teaching faculty, ITS, Accessibility Resources Office, Institutional Effectiveness, Academic Services, and the Library.

Standard 2: Digital Content Accessibility

- The overall accessibility score in Ally for Fall 2021 Blackboard content was 75.7 %. This is up from 70.1% for Spring 2021. Historical scores have been 68.0% (Fall 2020), 60.3% (Spring 2020), 66.9% (Fall 2019), and 45.5% (Spring 2019).

Change In Ally Scores 2019-2021



- Several workshops and informational sessions pertaining to the accessibility of digital content were held during the Fall 2021 semester. The sessions were well-received by SUNY Broome Faculty and Staff and included:

Ally = Friend: Touring Online Course Accessibility Tools (9/10/21)

Microsoft Word: Awkward to Accessible, Part I (9/14/21)

Microsoft Word: Awkward to Accessible, Part II (9/21/21)

Microsoft Powerpoint: Sliding into Accessibility, Part I (10/6/21)

Microsoft Powerpoint: Sliding into Accessibility, Part II (10/14/21)

Sitting on the Docs of the Bay: Google Docs Accessibility (10/15/21)

Winter To-Do: Ally and Accessibility (12/17/21)

- A Professional Development Microcredential, “Accessibility Across Campus” was developed using resources from Innovative Educators, a professional development platform for higher education. Starting the fall semester, five faculty and staff members began the required curriculum to complete the microcredential; to date, two have completed all requirements.
- A “Strive for 85 Campaign” was developed and disseminated to campus faculty and staff. This campaign is designed to assist faculty members in achieving an increased Blackboard Ally score and improving the accessibility of their digital content to all learners. To date, three faculty members have participated in the requirements of the campaign, with one completion. Professional Development at SUNY Broome will relaunch this initiative for the Spring 2022 semester.
- By the close of the Fall semester, 22 courses were reviewed for accessibility/OSCQR and action plans were delivered to the faculty.
- A policy for Distance Learning, based on a recommendation from the Distance Learning Steering Committee (DLSC) was developed and endorsed by the DLSC. The policy includes language about requiring online course reviews utilizing the SUNY Online Course Quality Review Rubric (OSCQR). Items related to accessibility are incorporated into this rubric. The policy was not endorsed by Council for Academic Issues (CAI) for adoption. Discussions continue campus-wide.

Standard 3: Classroom Accessibility

- A spreadsheet of all college classrooms was developed to utilize as an annual classroom accessibility inventory. A meeting was held, including the Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Director of Facilities, Interim Director of Public Safety & Security, Interim Director of Information Technology Services, the Registrar, the Environmental, Health & Safety Coordinator, the Director of the Ice Center, and the Dean of Institutional Effectiveness/EIT Officer to review the classroom inventory, ADA standards, and EIT accessibility requirements. A plan was established to utilize AssetWorks to maintain the classroom inventory, meeting the needs of various offices across campus, while providing for continuous assessment of physical accessibility of the campus. Over the winter break, an assessment of classroom space will be conducted.
- An order for braille signage on campus was placed, with plans to install the new signs prior to the start of the spring semester.
- The college began to offer Hyflex as an instructional modality in Fall 2021, with 7 courses offered in this new modality. Classrooms with HyFlex technology allow teaching and learning to happen in-person and remotely, simultaneously, while also allowing students to attend remotely, asynchronously. This instructional modality enhances

access for all students as they have the ability to select the modality of their preference, meeting their learning style and lifestyle needs.

- o Courses offered for Fall 2021 included: BIO 216 Immunology, BUS 115 Business Statistics, BUS 215 Managing Diversity in Organizations, CHM 121 Forensic Sciences, MAT 264 Linear Algebra, MUS 101 Introduction to Music, and MUS 185 Beginning Guitar.
- o To ensure a successful delivery of this new modality, faculty preparing to teach via the Hyflex modality participated in a structured three-month training with Instructional Designers.
- o Hyflex faculty, as part of their training, work with Information Technology to determine additional technological needs to enhance their instructional delivery.

Standard 4: Library Accessibility

- There were no accessibility issues reported to the [Library Accessibility Requests and Reporting form](#).
- A [Library Accessibility Policy](#) was approved by the Board of Trustees on October 21, 2021.
- A license for SiteSort, an accessibility checker, was utilized to ensure accessibility of the Library website was obtained and the library website was reviewed.
- A plan was established and progress made in compiling a list of accessibility tips to include in the library's A to Z list of databases. Librarians have been enrolled in and are completing relevant Deque modules to ensure that the library's database list with included tips will be complete by the end of the Spring semester.
- Information about obtaining assistive technology via the library and ARO is now available on the library's accessibility webpage. Further physical signage is in development. A walk-through with Facilities was completed in the summer of 2021 to ensure physical accessibility of library resources.
- Testing/VPAT review for accessibility of all widely used electronic resources and most secondary resources was completed. A full review of all electronic resources will be complete by the end of the Spring semester.

Standard 5: Procurement Accessibility

- A full roll out of the new EIT Accessibility Procurement process using the [EIT Accessibility Review Form](#) began Spring 2021. The Procurement Work Group reviewed the Voluntary Product Accessibility Templates (VPATS) of all EIT related purchase requests. Memos were sent to requesters listing any identified potential accessibility

issues that could require accommodations. The group was able to work out process issues during this roll out and a Procurement policy and procedure will be developed next semester to codify these processes.

- To focus on a more in-depth review of EIT related products on campus, and advance efforts beyond review of VPATs, to also begin testing of products, the Procurement Workgroup was re-imagined, and a Testing Task Force was created. Members have the technical expertise to conduct manual and automated testing on products.
- A workshop was held on October 21, 2021 with this new group to discuss the college's EIT Accessibility Procurement processes, how to conduct reviews of VPATS, and test products.
- Testing Task Force members include:
 - Noah Roth, Assistant Librarian (Chair)
 - Ciara Cable, Web Developer
 - Brian Croteau, Technical Assistant IIA, Accessibility Resource Office
 - John Covert, Technical Assistant IIA, ARO Technology Specialist
 - Erin Wilburn, Assistant Librarian
 - Paul Bond, Associate Librarian
 - Scott Kavulich, Technical Assistant IIA, Information Technology Services
 - Gregory LoTempio, Technical Assistant IIA, Information Technology Services
 - David Miller, Technical Assistant IIA, Information Technology Services
- Products reviewed this semester include:
 - Smart Notebook - learning software that supplements use with the SMART Board to enable instructors to create interactive lessons and presentations.
 - Sort Site - web testing software to check for quality issues including accessibility, usability, and web standards compliance
 - Naxos - comprehensive classical music streaming platform
 - HeinOnline - online research platform providing multidisciplinary access to legal, historical, governmental, political documents and reports.
 - Ableton - a music production and performance program

Next Steps

The EIT Advisory Council will continue to implement the EIT Accessibility Plan, working to achieve items on the Action Plan, in collaboration with the campus.

- Development and approval of Procurement Policy & Procedure
- Complete Braille signage upgrade across campus and assessment of classrooms
- Curb cuts to ensure sidewalks are accessible will continue across campus
- Campus walkthrough with a student presence will be conducted in the Spring semester
- Continued accessibility reviews of course materials and third-party tools utilized within the Learning Management System; review of processing office forms and new student application by the Testing Task Force
- Continue to provide professional development opportunities and trainings related to accessibility education
- Continue to work with Student Affairs and the Accessibility Resource Office to explore student activities focused on accessibility/advocacy for disabilities and enhance incorporation of the student voice into the college's accessibility efforts.
- A survey will be developed and administered for students to assess accessibility on campus.