



# Accessibility and Blackboard Ally

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# Outline



What is Accessibility



Why accessibility and impact



Testing and remediation process



What is Blackboard Ally



Resources

At the end of the session...

- Identify applicable accessibility laws, policies, and standards
- Identify where Blackboard Ally fits into the course remediation process
- Locate information, resources, and where to get additional support

# Outline

# Paint Accessibility

- Equal opportunities
  - Increased participation
  - Being present
  - Better learning
  - Inclusive
  - Multiple modalities
  - Alternative document formats
  - Equal access to participate
  - Captioning
- (Note: answers provided during the session)



# Functional Accessibility

Provide students the opportunity to:

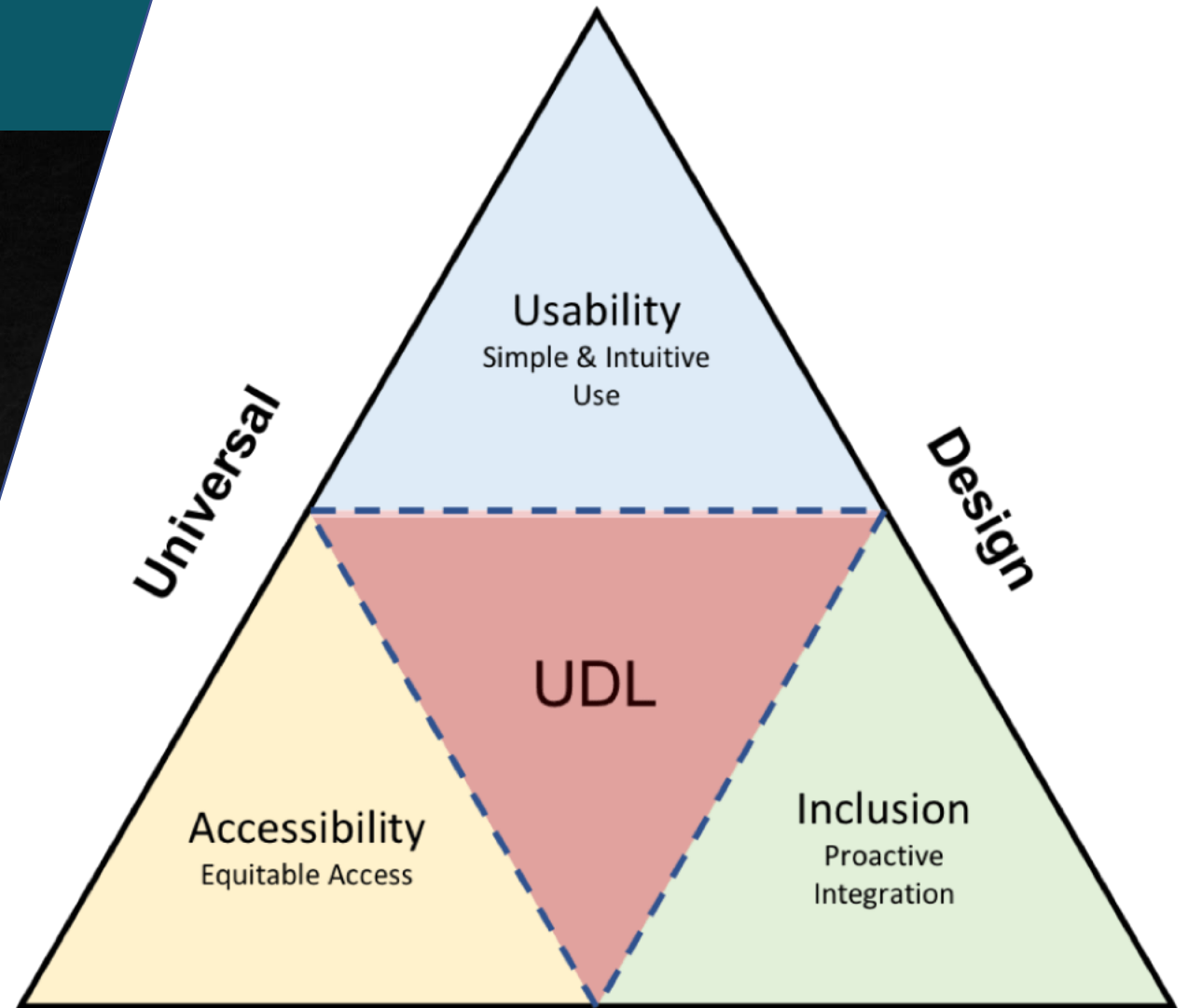
- Acquire the same information
- Engage in the same interactions
- Enjoy the same services

As students without disabilities, with substantially equivalent ease of use



# A11y in context

- Universal Design (UD)
- Universal Design for Learning (UDL)
- Inclusion
- Accessibility (A11y)
- Usability



# Why A11y?



## **Social Responsibility**

Inclusion and  
social justice



## **Reach and Retention**

More usable



## **Efficiency**

Less cost,  
maintenance,  
and support



## **Law and Policy**

Minimize risk



# The stick

## Laws

- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

## Standards

- Web Compliance Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) – identified in MC Policy #66004

## Policy

- MC Policy – 66004, [Electronic Information Technology Accessibility](#)
- MC Policy – 32106, [Employment of Individuals with Disabilities](#)
- MC Policy – 41002, [Equal Education Opportunity and Non-Discrimination Policy](#)





# Embrace the carrots

- Social responsibility
- More usable and increase reach
- Reduce cost of maintenance and support





# Differences in Ability

Category	Permanent	Temporary	Situational
Mobility	Arthritis	Broken Leg	Snowy day
Touch	One arm	Broken arm	New parent
Sight	Blind	Cataracts	Glare from sun
Hearing	Deaf	Ear infection	Noisy room
Speaking	Non-verbal	Laryngitis	Poor reception/Wi-fi
Cognitive	Brain injury	Migraines	Attention residue



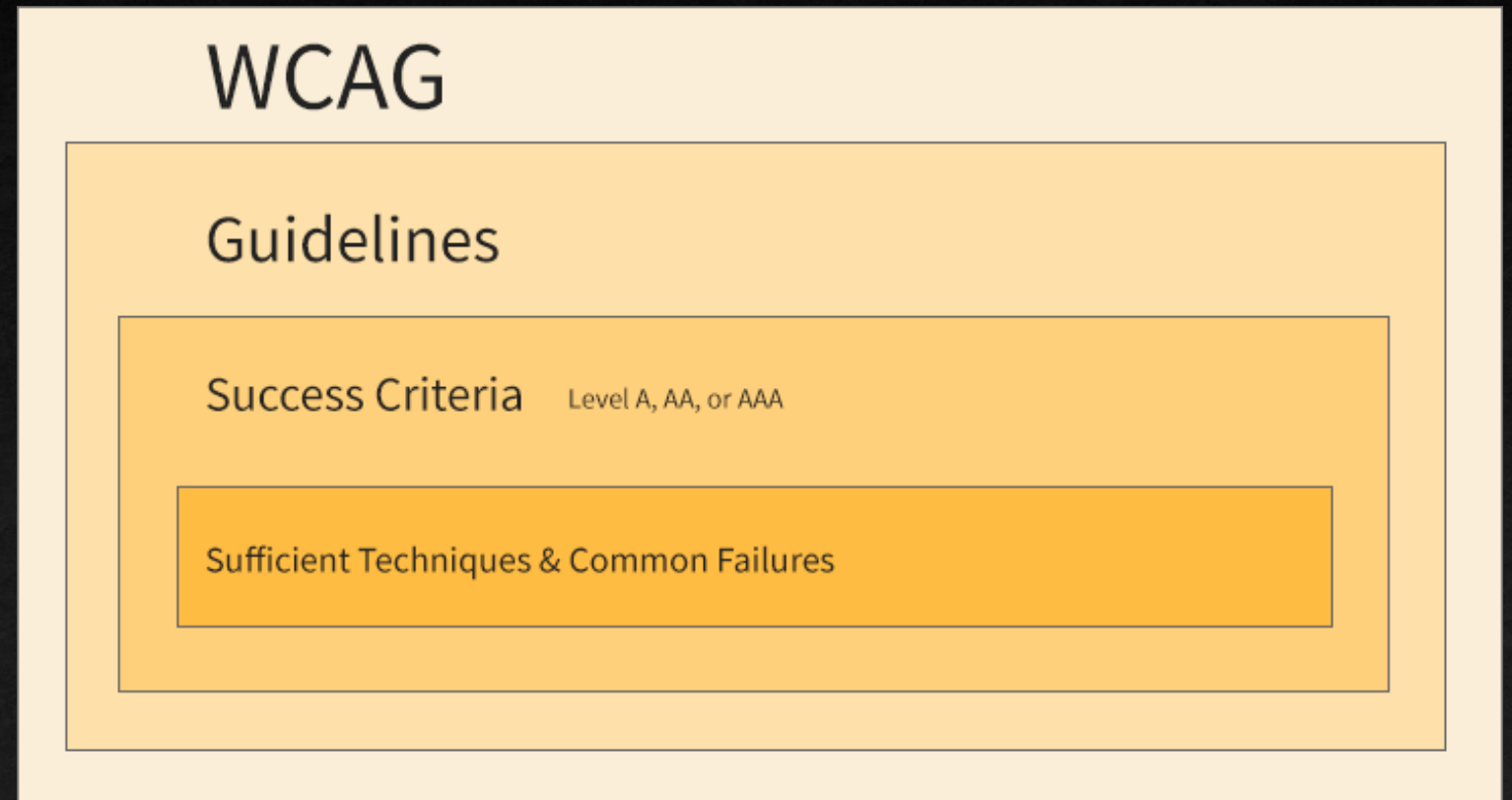
# POUR Accessibility into it

P – Perceivable

O – Operable

U – Understandable

R – Robust



# Perceivable

## P – Perceivable

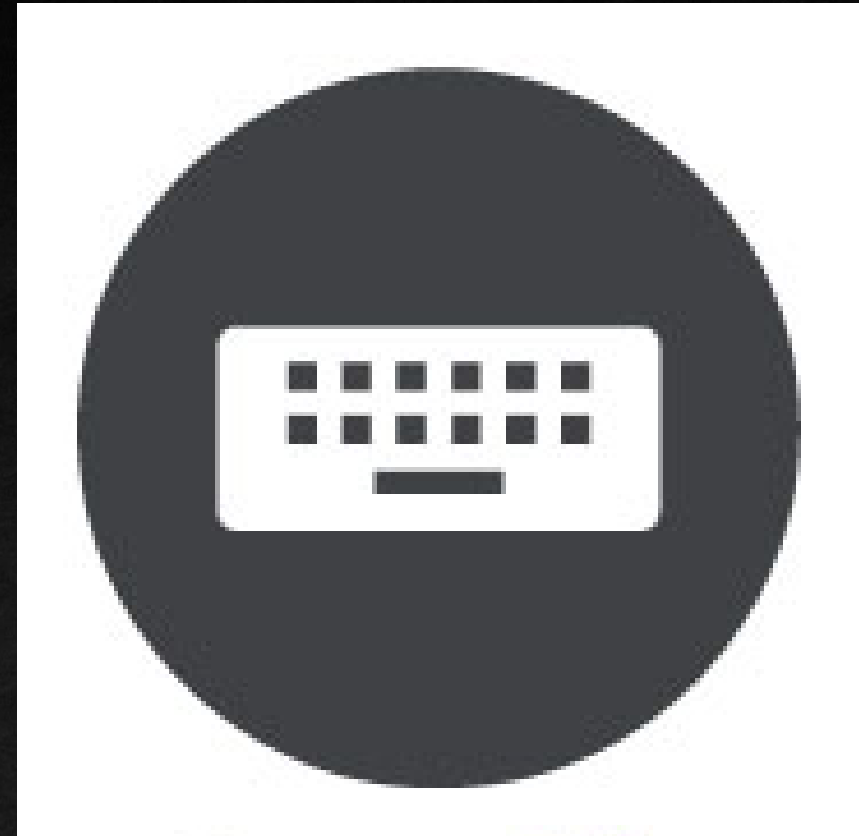
- Captioning
- Alt text (alternate text)
- Scanned PDF – picture of text
- Color contrast
- Kiosk touch screen out of reach



# Operable

## O – Operable

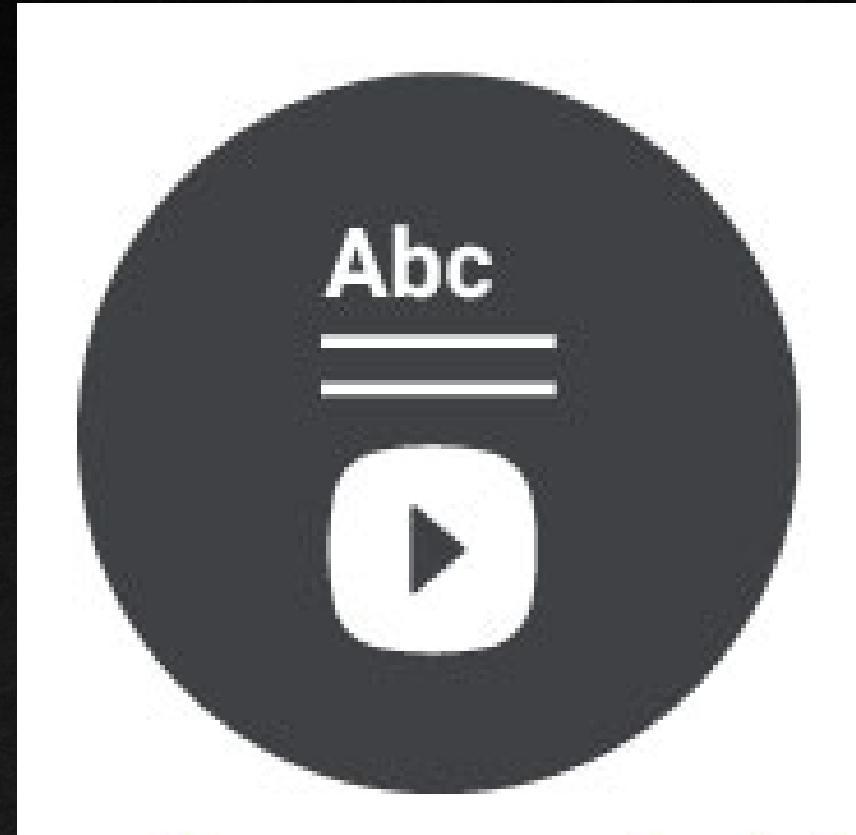
- Headings
- Links
- Keyboard focus
- Keyboard only use
- Enough time to use content
- Designed not to trigger seizures



# Understandable

## U – Understandable

- Tolerance for error
- Works in predictable ways
- Consistent navigation
- Unusual words and abbreviations
- Reading level



# Robust

## R – Robust

- Can be used with assistive technology
- Functionable in multiple browsers
- Functionable with different operating systems



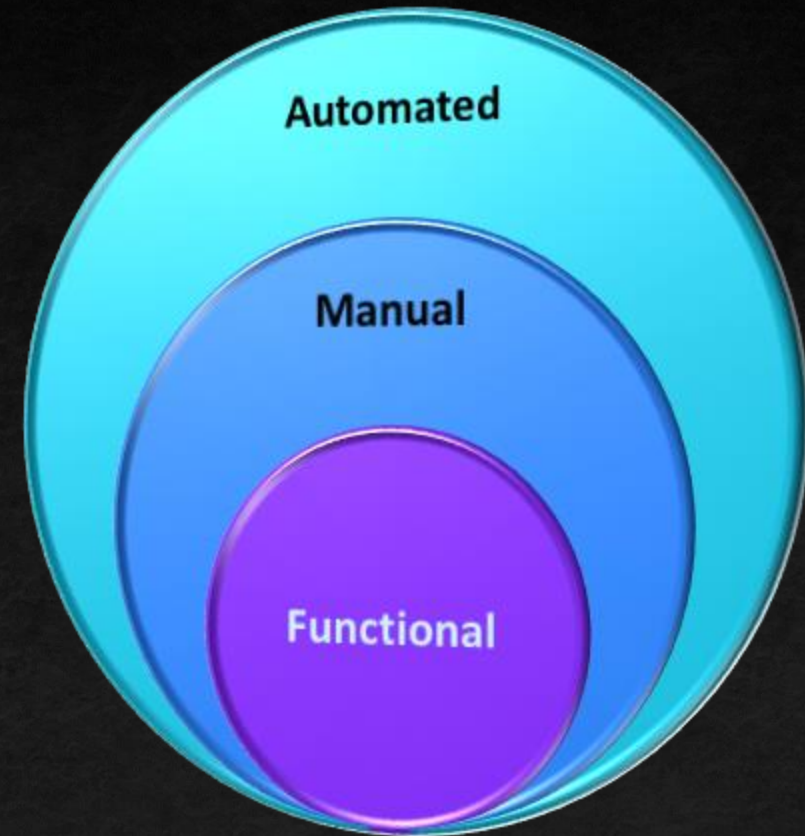


# Testing process

Automated – Potential wider reach

Manual – Sampling

Functional – user experience



# Testing process

## Automated – e.g. Blackboard Ally

- Presence of headings
- Missing alt text
- Color contrast

## Manual – e.g. specific tests or checks

- Real headings or just **Big** and **Bold**
- Images of text
- Consistent navigation and identification
- Keyboard navigation

## Tools

### Color Contrast

- [Link Color checker](#)
- [Color contrast](#)
- [Adobe Color](#)

### [Accessibility Checker](#) - Microsoft

- Word
- Excel
- PowerPoint

### Web Accessibility

- [WAVE](#)

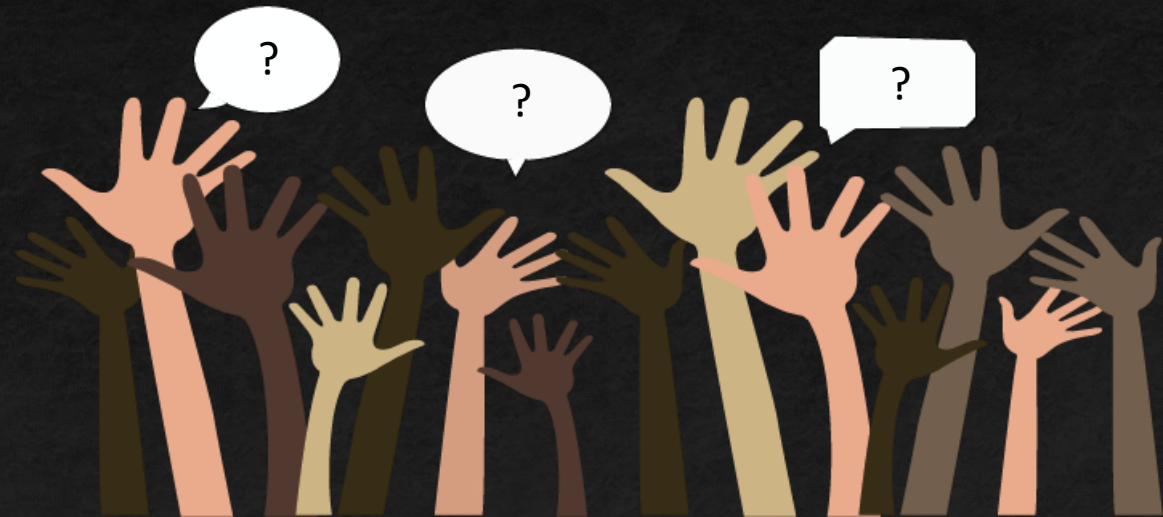
# Blackboard Ally

## What is it?

- Automated accessibility checker
- Allows students to use content in multiple formats

## How does it support student success?

- Options on format of content
- Supports remediating content more efficiently
- View trends to make data driven decisions



# Blackboard Ally Demo

- Student perspective
- Faculty Perspective



# Resources

## Accessibility@MC

- [www.montgomerycollege.edu/accessibility](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/accessibility)

## Toolkits and other resources

- [Accessibility and Universal Design Toolkit](#) and resources  
Note: Link goes to an OneDrive folder and will prompt to sign in with MC credentials



# Summary

Here is what we learned

- **Applicable accessibility laws, policies, and standards**
- **How Blackboard Ally fits into the course remediating process**
- **Where to get more information, resources, and where to get additional support**

## Next Steps

# The Road to Accessibility



- Visit [www.montgomerycollege.edu/accessibility](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/accessibility)
- Have questions?  
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