

## Scope

This document outlines the decision by the ADA Digital Accessibility Governance Board **to commit to using** Canvas and Panopto as the **recommended** tools for faculty to host digital course content and for auto-captioning respectively at the University of Washington. The decision aims to enhance digital accessibility, streamline tool usage, and ensure compliance with accessibility standards across the university.

## Background and Assessment

The [ADA Digital Accessibility Initiative](#) is charged with ensuring that UW's digital content is accessible, providing equal information, interactions, and services to people with disabilities. Additionally, the Initiative is leading UW's work to substantially comply with Department of Justice regulations by April 2026 and setting up the mechanisms to ensure accessible content thereafter.

The Initiative is a partnership between Compliance Services, the Provost's Office, and UW-IT that formed out of the Office of the ADA Coordinator's Digital Accessibility Task Force.

The recommendations for Canvas and Panopto were prepared by the ADA Digital Accessibility Initiative's Course Content Action Team who is charged with developing and executing action items related to academic course content including course materials such as textbooks and assigned text, course applications, and digital tools.

## Governance Review

- The decision in this document was proposed at the I&T ADA Digital Accessibility Board in its meeting on May 14, 2025, and a majority of members voted in its favor.

## Decision of the ADA Digital Accessibility Board

The ADA Digital Accessibility Board approved the recommendation from the Course Content Action Team that faculty are expected to use Canvas and Panopto as the primary tools for course content management and delivery unless a vetted exception is granted.

Policies will need to take into account that Canvas does not fit the needs of all departments or disciplines and should include a process under which they can request an exemption under certain conditions.

# Rationale

This is a directional decision, meaning that ADA Digital Accessibility Board has set strategic direction on behalf of the UW, based on stated goals and intended benefits of the [ADA Digital Accessibility Initiative](#).

Background for this decision can found in the Board's [meeting materials for May 14, 2025](#). Key considerations for this decision included:

- **Clear Exception Process:** Develop and communicate a clear process for requesting exceptions, ensuring that alternative tools are vetted for accessibility compliance.
- **Accessibility Targets:** Set initial Canvas accessibility targets of 80% compliance in Ally by next April and 95% by 2028, with ongoing support and training for faculty to achieve these goals.
- **Centralized List of Vetted Tools:** Create and maintain a centralized list of vetted tools to provide faculty with clear guidance on approved and accessible tools.