OLC | ONLINE LEARNING™ CONSORTIUM

"The ADA & Web Accessibility self-paced workshop provides a strong overview of accessible course design and guides participants through each aspect of ADA and Section 508, enabling them to build the foundation necessary for developing an inclusive online learning environment."

Staying Ahead of the Curve on Accessibility: ADA and Section 508 Compliance at Your Own Pace

How did you hear about this workshop? Our Center for Teaching Excellence provides faculty development grants for instructors to take courses through the OLC. I wanted to get an update on the current best practices for ADA compliance so I chose this course. Having it available as a self-paced workshop allowed me to take it and a few other workshops over the same time period because I had some control of how and when to complete the workload.

Why the need/interest in this workshop? Being able to access the latest policies, regulations, and best practices for ADA requirements and adaptations in the online classroom through a class that was self-paced was very helpful because I could work through the modules at my own pace and refer back to them as issues came up during my design process. Since I had to design all new courses at my new university, I wanted a course that could provide an overview of the best design tips for accessibility and ADA compliance to make sure my course design would provide the best chance of success for all of my students.

How did the workshop help you in your position/career? Someone I work with made the joke that as a mother of a blind student I didn't need this course. However, it's because I am the mother of a blind student I realize how much each instructor has to learn about accommodations and the constant struggle to keep up with technology and course design. With the myriad of special conditions that students have in our classrooms today, design tips that benefit all of our students are very useful. I know a lot about visual impairments and how to adapt or modify my courses for different visual abilities but this course helped me understand core quality design that is practical for students of all types, no matter what type of adaptive equipment they may be using or what special circumstances they might have.

To whom and why you would recommend this workshop? I would recommend this course to anyone who teaches web-enhanced, hybrid or online classes, who develops online training, or who works with students with special abilities in any form. However, most of all I recommend it to new online teachers and instructional designers because knowing the basics of how to design a course that is inclusive of all learners when you start would be a great timesaver.

TOP BENEFITS OF THIS WORKSHOP:

- **Current information and resources about ADA and Section 508 Compliance.**
- **Updated resources about best practices for Universal Design.**
- **Specific accessibility job aids for programs I use all the time in my online courses such as Microsoft programs.**
- **The reminder that good course design "makes something that is usable by everyone — including those with disabilities."**

About Anita

From the moment I started my position as an assistant professor in the Department of Health Sciences at UCA, I have taught fully online courses for undergraduates and graduate students. I have taken classes offered by our Center for Teaching Excellence and OLC to gain more skills to improve my online courses.

As the parent of a legally blind student, accessibility and Universal Design are very important to me because I have seen first-hand how a poorly designed course can impact students and their stress levels, or even their opportunity of success. Having taken several OLC workshops, my long-term goal is having one or more of my courses meet the requirements and standards for recognition as a quality online course using the lens of the OSCQR rubric and Quality Course Teaching and Instructional Practice scorecard. onlinelearning-c.org/QS_Suite

Workshops with One Focus: Excellence in Online Learning

OLC workshops are a smart and cost effective way to support your continuing professional development. Our immersive programs are expert-developed and designed to improve quality in every facet of online education.

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