I. Policy

A. UT Health San Antonio acknowledges its obligation to assure that its websites and web applications satisfy all applicable legal and regulatory requirements for accessibility by persons with disabilities and special needs. Although different applicable laws, regulations and policies may vary in their specific legal and technical requirements, it is beneficial for the University to establish a single set of specific, measurable targets for web accessibility that will reflect our commitment to universally accessible design, and promote good-faith efforts to support the letter and spirit of these and other applicable policies.

B. The Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG), established and maintained by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), provide such a standard, and Texas Administrative Code, Title 1, Rule §206.70 (“Accessibility, Institution of Higher Education Websites”), establishes that all websites for Texas institutions of higher education should meet or exceed the AA level success criteria of WCAG version 2.0, although TAC §206.70 specifically excludes WCAG’s Guideline 1.2 on Time-Based Media.

C. To ensure compliance not only with TAC §206.70 but also with other applicable policies listed below, the University establishes the following accessibility standard. All newly-developed, changed or updated University websites and web applications must:

1. Fulfill the success criteria of WCAG 2.0 Guideline 1.2 (Time-Based Media) at level A;
2. Fulfill all other WCAG 2.0 success criteria at level AA [§206.70 (a)];
3. Support variations in internet connection speeds and emerging communications protocols and technologies [§206.70 (f)(1)];
4. Adapt content to end-user devices such as mobile phones, tablets or other devices available to the general public [§206.70 (f)(2)]; and must

5. Be tested using one or more accessibility validation methods, including but not limited to automated methods, manual methods or assistive technologies, to confirm they meet or exceed the requirements of this chapter [§206.70 (d)].

D. When the criteria in (C) above cannot be fulfilled for a particular University website or web application, an alternative version of the page, form, application, document or other resource must:

1. Be provided and offer equivalent information or functionality;

2. Remain synchronized to the primary version; and must

3. Be updated whenever the primary version changes [§206.70 (c)].

II. Scope

A. These requirements apply to all newly-developed, changed or updated websites and web applications built or operated by UT Health San Antonio.

B. Each University website or web application is created, operated and/or maintained by a University employee who is the “publisher” of the website or web application. It is the responsibility of both the publisher of a University website and that publisher’s Vice President, Dean, Chair and/or Director to ensure that such websites comply with the University web accessibility standard described above.

III. Purpose

A. The UT Health Science Center at San Antonio is committed to ensuring the broadest possible access to the tools, services, and information we make available online.

B. The Texas Administrative Code (TAC) lays out standards and requirements for websites of state institutions of higher education that make those sites more accessible to users of all types. This includes users with different vision, hearing, mobility, cognition or vocalization needs, those who use assistive technologies, mobile phones, tablets and other devices to access websites, and those using Internet connections of varying speeds, emerging protocols and other characteristics.

C. To best serve our diverse user populations, this chapter establishes a University standard for web accessibility that will support not only the TAC requirements but others that may apply to different aspects of our operations.
IV. Procedure

A. In addition to the proactive steps described above, users may request reasonable accommodations under the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) with respect to UT Health San Antonio websites and/or web applications.

B. The publisher of each website is responsible for:
   1. conducting the testing described in I(C)(5) above,
   2. using resources such as “How to Meet WCAG (Quick Reference)” to understand how to address issues identified in that testing,
   3. reaching out to the Department of Web Initiatives, Office of Compliance and Privacy, and/or Office of Legal Affairs for help understanding the requirements, as needed, and
   4. addressing the issues identified in that testing, using the criteria described in I(C) above.

C. In the event that a disabled individual requests a reasonable accommodation under the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) with respect to a UT Health San Antonio website, then it is the responsibility of the ADA coordinator and the publisher of that website to comply with the Handbook of Operating Policies, Section 4.2.3, “Request for Accommodations Under the ADA and ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAAA)”, in order to address that request for reasonable accommodation.

D. The University promotes understanding of the laws, and the goals of Web accessibility by publishing links to the full text of Title 1, Chapters 206, “State Websites”, and 213, “Electronic and Information Resources”, of the Texas Administrative Code.

E. The public is encouraged to direct comments, complaints or suggestions concerning any accessibility issues with the University’s Web sites to:

   American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator
   UT Health San Antonio
   7703 Floyd Curl Drive
   San Antonio, Texas 78229-3900

   Accessibility Coordinator
   UT Health San Antonio
   7703 Floyd Curl Drive
   San Antonio, Texas 78229-3900

   Send e-mail to: accessibility@uthscsa.edu

V. Definitions

A. Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG), and level A and AA support of their success criteria, are explained and defined by the Web Accessibility Initiative of the World Wide Web Consortium. In particular, see “How to Meet WCAG (Quick Reference)”.
B. Other terms referenced by TAC §206.70 are defined in TAC §206.1, “Definitions”.

VI. References

A. In addition to fulfilling the requirements of Texas Administrative Code, Title 1, Rule §206.70 ("Accessibility, Institution of Higher Education Websites"), this University standard will support compliance with additional requirements that may apply to different aspects of University operations, including but not limited to the following:

1. As a component of the University of Texas System: UT System Policy UTS 150, “Access by Persons with Disabilities to Electronic and Information Resources Procured or Developed by The University of Texas System Administration and The University of Texas System Institutions”, and the supporting procedures set forth in:
   a. Office of General Counsel Bulletin 2006-1, “Access by Persons with Disabilities to Electronic and Information Resources Procured by The University of Texas System Administration and The University of Texas System Institutions”
   b. Office of General Counsel Bulletin 2009-1, “Access by Persons with Disabilities to Electronic and Information Resources Developed by The University of Texas System Administration and The University of Texas System Institutions”

2. As a Texas public institution of higher education: Texas Administrative Code, Title 1, Rules §§213.30-213.41, “Accessibility Standards for Institutions of Higher Education”

3. As a provider of health programs/activities which receive funding from the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS): Section 1557 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

4. As a provider of other programs that receive federal assistance: Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

5. As an employer: Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act

6. As a state government entity: Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act

7. As an operator of places of public accommodation, such as our libraries and clinics: Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act