**Mission Statement**
The University of North Carolina at Wilmington is open and accessible to students with disabilities. We are committed to providing assistance to enable qualified students to accomplish their educational goals, as well as assuring equal opportunity to derive all of the benefits of campus life. The Disability Resource Center has devoted much energy to meeting the requirements of Section 504, Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and its amendments, and to the Americans with Disability Act of 1990. Disability Resource Center serves as a full-time advocate for students with disabilities, as well as a resource for faculty, staff and administration.

**Policy of Nondiscrimination**
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) gives individuals with disabilities civil rights protection that is similar to that provided to all individuals on the basis of race, sex, national origin, and religion. The act guarantees equal opportunity in employment, public accommodations, transportation, state and local government services, and telecommunications. In addition, Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation act states: "No otherwise qualified handicapped individual in the United States shall, solely on the basis of his/her handicap, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance". The policy at The University of North Carolina at Wilmington is consistent with the ADA and Section 504. UNCW is open and accessible to students with disabilities. We are committed to providing assistance to enable qualified students to accomplish their educational goals as well as assuring equal opportunity to derive all of the benefits of campus life.

Disability Resource Center, UNCW
DePaolo Hall, First Floor
601 South College Road
Wilmington, NC 28403-5942

Phone: 910.962.7555
TTY: 800.735.2962
Fax: 910.962.7556
Tips for Accessible Web Design

UNCW Web Accessibility Statement

The University of North Carolina Wilmington is committed to providing equal access to all aspects of campus life, both programmatically and physically. UNCW has devoted much energy to meeting the requirements of Section 504, Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. In addition, Section 508 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 specifically requires post-secondary institutions to have Web pages that are ADA compliant as of June 2001. Institutions of higher education are clearly responsible for making all programs, activities, and opportunities equally available to qualified individuals with disabilities. As higher education becomes increasingly Web-based, there is a clear obligation to assure programmatic access through attention to the accessibility of both the institutional Web presence and the technology needed to reach it. This is no longer an issue of convenience. The threat to educational opportunity and the danger of discrimination are real and imminent.

The Basics

- Create a standard template for your website/materials. Once this has been deemed compliant, you can focus simply on the content of each page.

- Links to web-located material embedded in class content should be on their own line of text. For example, I would not put a link here but on a separate line:
  
  UNCW DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER HOMEPAGE

- Provide text equivalents [alt tags] for non-text content (images, graphs, animations, etc.)

- Ensure that text and graphics are understandable when viewed without color or special formatting. DO NOT RELY ON COLOR TO CONVEY INFORMATION

- Caption all video or audio, or at least have a transcript available which coincides with any visual presentation, including:
  
  - Dialogue
  - Action and visual descriptions
  - Syncing prompts (think beeps on an audio track that tell you when to turn the next page of a picture book)

- Make sure that links make sense, even when read out of context. HINT: Avoid "Click Here."

- Provide links to any required applets, plugins, or other required applications.

- Open links in new page if they direct the user to a third party site.

- Contact the Technology Assistance Center with any computer or technology questions—including web design & accessibility.
  
  Campus Extension: 2HELP
  tac@uncw.edu

Disability Resource Center

Hall, First Floor
601 South College Road
Wilmington, NC 28403-5942

Phone: 910.962.7555
TTY: 800.735.2962
Fax: 910.962.7556