

Canvas Tools and Resources

Canvas offers several tools for checking accessibility within your Canvas course sections. Taking advantage of these tools and updating your course content will not only benefit students that have accessibility needs, but all students at Missouri Western. Here are the tools that are currently available for you to use:

Rich Content Editor (RCE):

The Rich Content Editor (RCE), includes Canvas’s built-in accessibility checker that scans a wide variety of items with the RCE window. The RCE is available when creating content Pages, Assignments, Discussions, Announcements, and Quizzes. The accessibility checker in the RCE will identify areas that are not accessible and provide suggestions for correcting them.

First look at the person icon in the lower right corner to see how many accessibility issues there are. Once you click that, it will tell you what the issues are and how to fix them. You can correct any issues directly in the accessibility checker window:

14pt Heading 4 | B I U A [color] [background color] [text color] [font size] [link] [image] [video] [audio] [table] [code] [undo] [redo] [help]

Headers:
Always check and make sure your content is visible and accessible to all learners. Often times, text, images, headers, etc cannot be identified and need mo
Examples:

Image:

Table:

Why	Accessibility	Matters
Screen Readers	Keyboard Navigation	Accessible to all

Lists:
Text in lists need to be modified as a list

1. Often times screen readers cannot read lists like this
2. This is an example of a list not accessible

Descriptive text to a website-
To visit the Accessibility Resources Center, [Click Here](#)

h4 104 words | </>

For this example, there are five issues identified. By clicking the person icon in the lower right hand corner, a pop out window appears on the right that can be used to correct accessibility issues on the page.

For images that are NOT used for direct learning of outcomes, mark them as **Decorative so screen readers will ignore them Otherwise ALWAYS add alt text to images on the page.*

Tables

- Don't use tables for layout; tables should only be used for storing data.
- Add row and column headings to your table.
- Add a caption to your table to contextualize its purpose and content.
- Learn more: [Accessible Tables in Canvas](#)

Lists

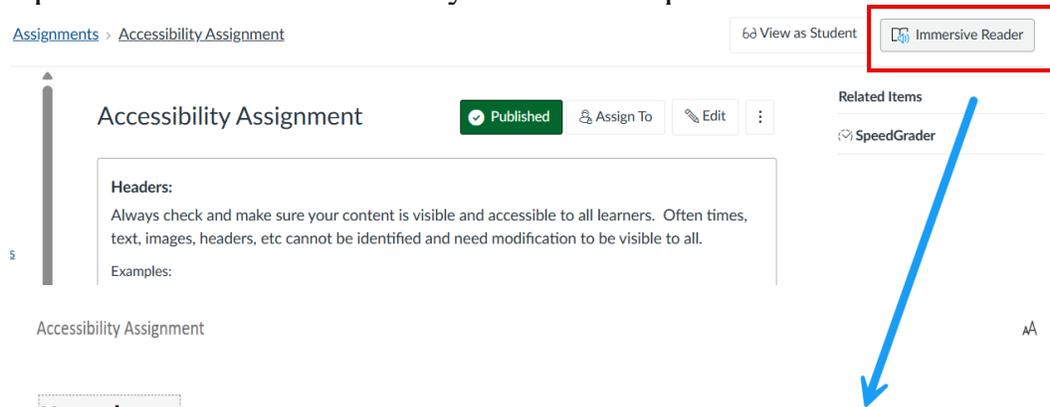
- Use the list buttons in the Rich Content Editor toolbar to create a list. Don't create lists manually by typing numbers or asterisks at the beginning of each line.
Learn more: [Accessible Lists in Canvas](#)

Link Text

- Ensure that your link text describes the destination. Link text should not contain the URL unless it is short and will be memorized (e.g., "colorado.edu").
 - Good: [CU Boulder Captioning Service](#)
 - Bad: <https://oit.colorado.edu/services/consulting-professional-services/captioning/request-captioning/webform/request-captioning>
- If you are linking to a document, indicate the file type of the document in brackets at the end of the link text.
 - Good: [CU Boulder Campus Standards for the Accessibility of ICT \(pdf\)](#).
- Learn more: [Canvas General Accessibility Design Guidelines](#)

Immersive Reader:

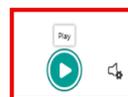
Microsoft's Immersive Reader program can be used to check Assignments and Pages for accessibility issues. Click the Immersive Reader button in the upper right corner of the screen. This will turn the page into a screen reader format where text to speech can be used to identify areas that require attention.



Headers:

Always check and make sure your content is visible and accessible to all learners. Often times, text, images, headers, etc cannot be identified and need modification to be visible to all.

Examples:



Coming in Soon!! New Course Accessibility Checker (Just released 2-25-2026 (beta): Currently ongoing updates

Key Takeaway: The Course Accessibility Checker is a course-level tool that enables instructors to identify, remediate, and validate accessibility issues across Canvas-created content. It streamlines accessibility compliance with live, on-demand reports, built-in remediation guidance, and content previews.

While the existing RCE Accessibility Checker has been a trusted and widely used tool for years, evolving accessibility standards and impending legislative changes mean educators and administrators need more. Accessibility remains a top priority for our customers, and the new Course Accessibility Checker is designed to meet those growing demands by providing:

- **Accessibility checking and remediation:** Offers instructors and administrators an easier way to ensure course materials meet WCAG 2.1 AA accessibility requirements across web and mobile, including content in Canvas.
- **Education for ongoing instruction:** Not only flags accessibility issues, but explains what each rule means, why it matters, and how to resolve it.
- **Remediates commonly missed accessibility issues:** Designed to address the most common course-level accessibility workflows.
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How to Enable: “Accessibility Checker” -*Settings>Feature Option*

The tool will be integrated into the core Canvas experience and access to it can be controlled at both the account and course level.

The Accessibility Checker Feature Option, once activated, will appear on the course navigation menu. Click the *Accessibility* link and click *Scan Course*.

Spring 2026

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Course Accessibility Checker

Scan Course



You haven't scanned your course yet

Scan Course

Filter resources

Last edited from

From

Expected format: MM/DD/YYYY

Last edited to

To

Expected format: MM/DD/YYYY

Resource type

- All
- Pages
- Assignments

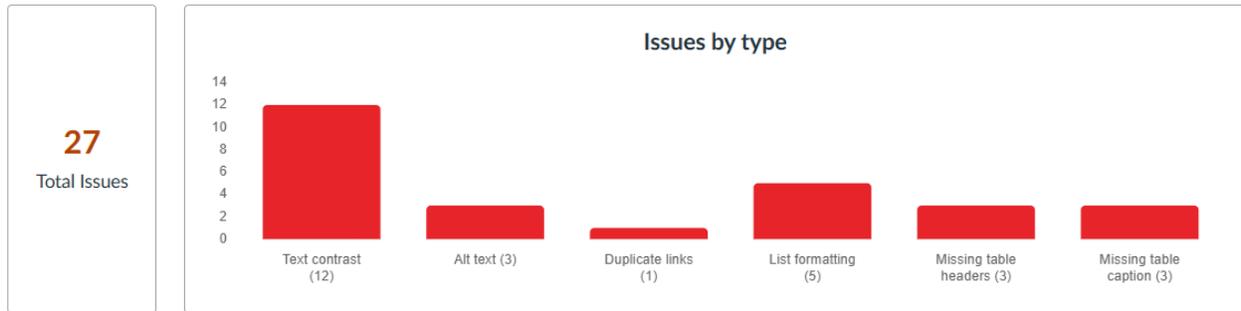
State

- All
- Published
- Unpublished

With issues of

- All
- Alt text
- Skipped heading level
- Heading length
- Duplicate links
- Missing table headers
- Table headers set up incorrectly
- Missing table caption
- List formatting
- Text contrast

Apply filters



Resource ↕	Issues ▾	Type ↕	State ↕	Last edited ↕
Welcome to the Course!	15	Page	✓ Published	Aug 25, 2022
Submit Homework for Week #1 Here	4	Assignment	✓ Published	Jan 13, 2026
Get Support	2	Page	✓ Published	Aug 25, 2022
Guides for using Canvas	2	Page	✓ Published	Aug 25, 2022
About your Instructor	2	Page	✓ Published	Aug 25, 2022

February, 2026 Release:

- **Course-level central interface:** accessible from the course navigation, it provides a birds-eye view of all accessibility issues identified.
- **Scanning native Canvas content:** detecting issues will initially be supported in Canvas **Pages** and **Assignments**.
- **Wizard-style remediation:** a fast, intuitive way to review and fix accessibility issues in learning resources without opening the content separately. The experience explains what's incorrect and provides in-context controls to resolve issues immediately. We'll begin by addressing the most common accessibility issues, including heading structure, image alt text, and hyperlink usage, with more to follow.

Planned for April 2026:

- **AI-enabled remediation:** IgniteAI will introduce image alt text and table caption generation options so educators don't have to type or build them from scratch. This functionality will be controlled with a separate feature flag so that institutions can opt-in when they are ready for adopting AI in this capacity.
- **Scanning native Canvas content:** detecting issues will be supported for Discussions, Announcements and Syllabi.

Frequently asked questions

Does this tool detect issues for 2.1A or AA compliance?

Our accessibility rules are based on 2.1 AA compliance.

Will this tool replace the existing RCE-based Accessibility Checker?

No, not at this time. Users can continue using the RCE Accessibility checker to scan and remediate content within a specific learning resource, while the new Course Accessibility checker can scan and remediate content at the course level (across learning resources).

How does this tool work with page versioning?

The tool always scans and remediates the current active revision. If a previous revision of a page is restored, any issues associated with that revision will then be displayed.

Does it also cover external content, such as PDFs?

While we're already seeing strong demand for PDFs, the February and April release will support **Canvas-native content only**. After that, we'll determine the best path forward for additional improvements.

Will the checker support detecting videos without captions?

This is something we're actively exploring. It's an important area, and we plan to evaluate it after the February release.

What are the most important dates I need to be aware of?

- Initial functionality listed above will be available in Beta environments on January 30 and production on February 21, 2026
- Additional functionality is planned to be available in Beta environments in March and production environments in April 2026

Is there an additional cost to use the new Course Accessibility Checker?

The Course Accessibility Checker is included in the core Canvas experience for no additional cost.

Is there an additional cost to use the IgniteAI features included in the Accessibility Checker?

Those remediations will be included in the IgniteAI free access period we're currently offering for all Canvas customers globally. That means your institution will be free to use those AI features at least **through June 30, 2026** while we continue to work with customers to shape our long-term commercial structure for

AI features. Any future additions or changes to IgniteAI's availability will be communicated.