

Images and Graphics

Alternate text is a detailed description of what an image or graphic is or means, that can be identified by a screen reader to inform students of the context of the image. Alternate text must be added to any image or graphic used with your Canvas course. This includes Assignments, quizzes, discussions, content pages, or any other student-facing course content.

Images can be identified as informative or decorative.

- **Informative Images:** Provide a concise description that conveys the same information as the image.
- **Decorative Images:** Use a null alt attribute (`alt=""`) so screen readers skip them.

In Canvas, when using an accessibility checker in the Rich Content Editor (RCE) or other accessibility checkers, it will tell you if an image requires alternate text. You can easily update the alternate text when the accessibility checker identifies an image that is missing alternate text (informative) or you can mark it as decorative if the image is not essential to the learning outcomes of the page.

- **Informative images** convey a simple concept or information that can be expressed in a short phrase or sentence. The text alternative should convey the meaning or content that is displayed visually, which typically isn't a literal description of the image.
- **Decorative images** don't add information to the content of a page. For example, the information provided by the image might already be given using adjacent text, or the image might be included to make the website more visually attractive.

Tips: Avoid color-only communication: Never use color alone to convey information. Supplement color coding with patterns, labels, textures, or text to ensure information is accessible to people with color vision deficiencies. Provide long descriptions for complex graphics: For detailed charts, graphs, diagrams or infographics, include extended descriptions either in the surrounding text or through a separate linked page. Make charts and graphs accessible: Provide text summaries for data visualizations that explain trends, key findings and data points. Consider providing data tables as alternatives to purely visual representations.

