

The Chronicle of Higher Education Accessibility Conformance Report

WCAG Edition

(Based on VPAT® Version 2.4)

Name of Product/Version: The Chronicle of Higher Education’s website, www.chronicle.com

Report Date: 2/16/22

Product Description: The Chronicle of Higher Education has the nation’s largest newsroom dedicated to covering colleges and universities.

Contact Information: Bridget Shapiro, Bridget@boia.org

Notes: BoIA performed manual testing of the WCAG 2.1 A/AA checkpoints on pages in scope as well as conducted use case testing to check how usability is affected by accessibility.

Evaluation Methods Used: Manual WCAG 2.1 testing performed by two subject matter experts using best practices, screen reader software and various tools including color contrast checker.

Applicable Standards/Guidelines

This report covers the degree of conformance for the following accessibility standard/guidelines:

Standard/Guideline	Included In Report
Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0	Level A (Yes) Level AA (Yes) Level AAA (No)
Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1	Level A (Yes) Level AA (Yes) Level AAA (No)

Terms

The terms used in the Conformance Level information are defined as follows:

- **Supports:** The functionality of the product has at least one method that meets the criterion without known defects or meets with equivalent facilitation.
- **Partially Supports:** Some functionality of the product does not meet the criterion.
- **Does Not Support:** The majority of product functionality does not meet the criterion.
- **Not Applicable:** The criterion is not relevant to the product.
- **Not Evaluated:** The product has not been evaluated against the criterion. This can be used only in WCAG Level AAA.

WCAG 2.1 Report

Note: When reporting on conformance with the WCAG 2.1 Success Criteria, they are scoped for full pages, complete processes, and accessibility-supported ways of using technology as documented in the WCAG 2.1 Conformance Requirements.

Table 1: Success Criteria, Level A

Notes:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.1.1 Non-text Content (Level A)	Supports	
1.2.1 Audio-only and Video-only (Prerecorded) (Level A)	Supports	
1.2.2 Captions (Prerecorded) (Level A)	Supports	
1.2.3 Audio Description or Media Alternative (Prerecorded) (Level A)	Not Applicable	
1.3.1 Info and Relationships (Level A)	Partially Supports	1) <h1>'s that conveys the purpose of the page has not been implemented at the top of some pages 2) Some elements have been implemented incorrectly as an <h1> when it functions as a heading with a lower level such as <h2> or <h3> based on preceding heading levels 3) In some cases, visible headings are not implemented as headings. 4) In some areas, Heading levels start at <h3>.
1.3.2 Meaningful Sequence (Level A)	Supports	
1.3.3 Sensory Characteristics (Level A)	Not Applicable	
1.4.1 Use of Color (Level A)	Supports	
1.4.2 Audio Control (Level A)	Not Applicable	
2.1.1 Keyboard (Level A)	Supports	
2.1.2 No Keyboard Trap (Level A)	Supports	
2.1.4 Character Key Shortcuts (Level A 2.1 only)	Not Applicable	
2.2.1 Timing Adjustable (Level A)	Not Applicable	
2.2.2 Pause, Stop, Hide (Level A)	Not Applicable	
2.3.1 Three Flashes or Below Threshold (Level A)	Not Applicable	
2.4.1 Bypass Blocks (Level A)	Does Not Support	There is no skip navigation.
2.4.2 Page Titled (Level A)	Partially Supports	Not all pages have titles or correct/descriptive titles.
2.4.3 Focus Order (Level A)	Supports	
2.4.4 Link Purpose (In Context) (Level A)	Partially Supports	Multiple links are not unique. In some areas, images and associated text content are individually implemented as links causing for redundant navigation

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
		and announcements
2.5.1 Pointer Gestures (Level A 2.1 only)	Not Applicable	
2.5.2 Pointer Cancellation (Level A 2.1 only)	Not Applicable	
2.5.3 Label in Name (Level A 2.1 only)	Supports	
2.5.4 Motion Actuation (Level A 2.1 only)	Not Applicable	
3.1.1 Language of Page (Level A)	Supports	
3.2.1 On Focus (Level A)	Supports	
3.2.2 On Input (Level A)	Supports	
3.3.1 Error Identification (Level A)	Partially Supports	Error messages are not always voiced by the screen reader or displayed in some areas.
3.3.2 Labels or Instructions (Level A)	Partially Supports	Some links and buttons are not announced to screen reader users. Not all required fields are identified as being required visibly, or via a screen reader.
4.1.1 Parsing (Level A)	Supports	
4.1.2 Name, Role, Value (Level A)	Supports	

Table 2: Success Criteria, Level AA

Notes:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.2.4 Captions (Live) (Level AA)	Not Applicable	
1.2.5 Audio Description (Prerecorded) (Level AA)	Not Applicable	
1.3.4 Orientation (Level AA 2.1 only)	Not Applicable	
1.3.5 Identify Input Purpose (Level AA 2.1 only)	Supports	
1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum) (Level AA)	Partially Supports	The red error message text in the continue reading form fields fails color contrast. It is red within a blue background with a color contrast of only 3.12 to 1., 1) The Already registered, Outside the U.S.?, and By subscribing, you agree to the text are all dark gray text on a light gray background with a color contrast of only

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
		4.21 to 1 2) The link text (#035c9b) to surrounding non-link text (#666666) does not meet the contrast ratio of 3:1 to be able to distinguish links from non-links.
1.4.4 Resize text (Level AA)	Does Not Support	Content is truncated and there is loss of content and functionality when text only is resized to 200%.
1.4.5 Images of Text (Level AA)	Partially Supports	Some of the Advertisements throughout are images of text and are not available to screen reader users.
1.4.10 Reflow (Level AA 2.1 only)	Supports	
1.4.11 Non-text Contrast (Level AA 2.1 only)	Supports	
1.4.12 Text Spacing (Level AA 2.1 only)	Supports	
1.4.13 Content on Hover or Focus (Level AA 2.1 only)	Not Applicable	
2.4.5 Multiple Ways (Level AA)	Supports	
2.4.6 Headings and Labels (Level AA)	Supports	
2.4.7 Focus Visible (Level AA)	Partially Supports	The color contrast difference between focused and not focused blue color filled buttons is not sufficient. Currently, these only get a blue border added to them and it is hard to see the difference between focus states. Some buttons, such as the Stop Receiving and Sign Up buttons are not keyboard accessible.
3.1.2 Language of Parts (Level AA)	Not Applicable	
3.2.3 Consistent Navigation (Level AA)	Supports	
3.2.4 Consistent Identification (Level AA)	Supports	
3.3.3 Error Suggestion (Level AA)	Partially Supports	Form fields such as "Email" or "Phone Number" need suggestions provided as a part of the error message on what the format of the inputted information should be.
3.3.4 Error Prevention (Legal, Financial, Data) (Level AA)	Supports	
4.1.3 Status Messages (Level AA 2.1 only)	Does Not Support	When there are no search results found, or a count of the search results found, that information is displayed but not announced. When there are search results and any of the filters are applied and the count changes, that must also is not announced

Table 3: Success Criteria, Level AAA

Notes:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.2.6 Sign Language (Prerecorded) (Level AAA)	Not Evaluated	
1.2.7 Extended Audio Description (Prerecorded) (Level AAA)	Not Evaluated	
1.2.8 Media Alternative (Prerecorded) (Level AAA)	Not Evaluated	
1.2.9 Audio-only (Live) (Level AAA)	Not Evaluated	
1.3.6 Identify Purpose (Level AAA 2.1 only)	Not Evaluated	
1.4.6 Contrast (Enhanced) (Level AAA)	Not Evaluated	
1.4.7 Low or No Background Audio (Level AAA)	Not Evaluated	
1.4.8 Visual Presentation (Level AAA)	Not Evaluated	
1.4.9 Images of Text (No Exception) (Level AAA)	Not Evaluated	
2.1.3 Keyboard (No Exception) (Level AAA)	Not Evaluated	
2.2.3 No Timing (Level AAA)	Not Evaluated	
2.2.4 Interruptions (Level AAA)	Not Evaluated	
2.2.5 Re-authenticating (Level AAA)	Not Evaluated	
2.2.6 Timeouts (Level AAA 2.1 only)	Not Evaluated	
2.3.2 Three Flashes (Level AAA)	Not Evaluated	
2.3.3 Animation from Interactions (Level AAA 2.1 only)	Not Evaluated	
2.4.8 Location (Level AAA)	Not Evaluated	
2.4.9 Link Purpose (Link Only) (Level AAA)	Not Evaluated	
2.4.10 Section Headings (Level AAA)	Not Evaluated	
2.5.5 Target Size (Level AAA 2.1 only)	Not Evaluated	
2.5.6 Concurrent Input Mechanisms (Level AAA 2.1 only)	Not Evaluated	
3.1.3 Unusual Words (Level AAA)	Not Evaluated	
3.1.4 Abbreviations (Level AAA)	Not Evaluated	
3.1.5 Reading Level (Level AAA)	Not Evaluated	
3.1.6 Pronunciation (Level AAA)	Not Evaluated	
3.2.5 Change on Request (Level AAA)	Not Evaluated	

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
3.3.5 Help (Level AAA)	Not Evaluated	
3.3.6 Error Prevention (All) (Level AAA)	Not Evaluated	