D2L Brightspace Accessibility

Design and Content

Clear and consistent navigation

It is helpful to all students to provide consistent navigation across each learning module. This means having the same types of items in the same order in each module. The exception would be the Start Here module and other resource modules. UWG Online provides a Basic Course Template that suggests a recommended order.

To aid in navigation, CourseDen provides breadcrumbs at the top of each screen, just below the navigation bar. Breadcrumbs remind the user where they are in relation to other material and provide helpful orientation cues.

Headings and spacing

It is important to use headings and appropriate spacing to group content to make it easier to scan the material and understand it. When we look at a page of text, we can more easily pick out the important information if there are headings and sub-headings. This is even more important for people who use screen readers or other assistive technology, which use headings as place holders.
Alt-text
Whenever you insert a picture in CourseDen, you have an option to provide alternative text. I always provide a description and sometimes, if it is truly decorative, I check the box after providing a description.

Contrast
Provide sufficient contrast between foreground text and background colors. Think about text on images, buttons, and backgrounds with color gradients.

Color
Color should not be the sole indicator of any type of information. To indicate importance, add an asterisk (and a key indicating that an asterisk indicates important information). Try to be conscious of the fact that some people are color blind, thus they cannot make distinctions between various colors. Here are two examples from [W3C: WAI](https://www.w3.org/WAI/).
Color Contrast

Make sure that your color contrast in CourseDen is appropriate. If you change the font color in CourseDen (D2L Brightspace), the following pop-up window comes up so that you can select a color. Note that the current contrast meets WCAG AA ratings as indicated by the green checkmark next to WCAG.

If you select a different font color, however, note that the contrast ratio may change. In this image, the contrast does not meet accessibility ratings as indicated by the exclamation point within a red triangle next to the WCAG AA rating, indicating that it does not meet the standards.
Font

Brightspace also offers different fonts. One font that some people with dyslexia find easier to read is the Open Dyslexic font. It can be accessed under your Account Settings in CourseDen.