



Assistive Technology Initiative

George Mason University

ATI Resources for Accessibility of Your Mason Online Courses

As the Mason community makes the transition to online instruction over the next few weeks, the Assistive Technology Initiative (ATI), in cooperation with Compliance, Diversity and Ethics (CDE) and Disability Services (DS), would like to reiterate its commitment to ensuring that all students are afforded equivalent access to the university's information and communications technology (ICT) resources.

In this handout, we highlight the resources in place to aid faculty and staff with the development of accessible and usable instructional resources.

Blackboard Accessibility and Usability Tips/Strategies

The ATI has identified some basic tips and strategies that faculty and staff should consider to ensure their online courses are as accessible as possible for all students.

See: https://ati.gmu.edu/resources/accessibility-resources/blackboard-accessibility/

Captioning, Transcription, and/or Audio Description for Instructional Videos

The ATI provides captioning and transcription services for videos used in the classroom and/or on frontfacing web resources. This ensures that multimedia content is accessible to students with disabilities in the Mason community.

See: https://ati.gmu.edu/accessible-media/

• Document Remediation support for faculty using PPT, Word, and/or PDF documents in your online courses

The ATI will convert PPT, Word, and/or PDF documents into accessible formats that are usable by students who use assistive technology applications (i.e., screen reading and/or text-to-speech tools).

See: https://ati.gmu.edu/accessible-text/accessible-documents/

• Accessible Web Conferencing Solutions (e.g., WebEx, Bb Collaborate Ultra, etc.)

Accessible synchronous online learning and collaboration tools can make learning easier and more accessible to students with disabilities in the Mason community. The ATI has compiled a list of university-sponsored web conferencing solutions and accessibility considerations for each to aid faculty with making informed decisions with respect to supporting students with disabilities in online instruction.

See: https://ati.gmu.edu/resources/accessibility-resources/web-conferencing/

Resources for Accessibility at Mason

Creating Accessible STEM Content

The ATI has highlighted software tools to assist with the creation of MathML. This specification is supported by many assistive technology applications and improves access to STEM content for screen reader and/or text-to-speech users.

See: https://ati.gmu.edu/resources/accessibility-resources/creating-accessible-stem-content/

Creating Accessible Documents

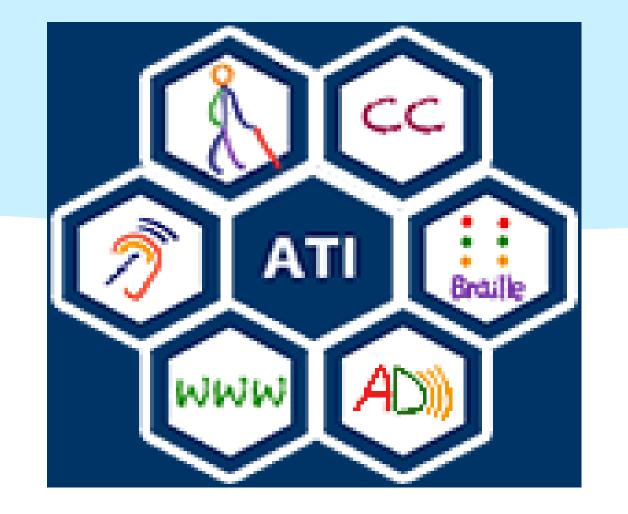
The ATI has developed training resources to assist faculty with creating accessible Office 2019 and Office 365 documents.

See: https://ati.gmu.edu/resources/accessibility-resources/create-accessible-documents/

More about Assistive Technology Initiative (ATI)

To learn about these services and other supports available to the Mason community, please visit the ATI Accessibility **Resources** page on ATI website:

https://ati.gmu.edu/resources/ accessibility-resources/



Contact Information

Assistive Technology Initiative

George Mason University 4400 University Drive, MSN 6A11 Aquia Building, Room 238 Fairfax, VA 22030

Hours of operation: M-F 8:30a -**4:30p**

Telephone: 703-993-4329

Fax: 703-993-4743 Email: ati@gmu.edu

Prepared March 2020

Web: stearnscenter.gmu.edu | Email: stearns@gmu.edu | Phone: 703-993-6200