

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Voluntary Product Accessibility Template® (VPAT®)

Version 2.1

March 2018

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Table Information for VPAT® Readers

For each of the standards, the criteria are listed by chapter in a table. The structures of the tables are: the first column contains the criteria being evaluated, the second column describes the level of conformance of the product regarding the criteria and the third column contains any additional remarks and explanations regarding the product.

- When sections of criteria do not apply, or deemed by the customer as not applicable, the section is noted as such and the rest of that table may be removed for that section.
- When multiple standards are being recorded in this document, the duplicative sections are noted and responded to only one time. The duplicate entry will note the cross reference to the data.

The Chronicle of Higher Education Accessibility Conformance Report

VPAT® Version 2.1 – March 2018

Name of Product/Version: The Chronicle of Higher Education (chronicle.com)

Product Description: A website for news and information related to higher academe

Date: November, 2019

Contact information:

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Notes:

Evaluation Methods Used: General product knowledge

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, at http://www.w3.org/TR/2008/REC-WCAG20-20081211/	Level A (Yes) Level AA (Yes) Level AAA (No)
Revised Section 508 standards as published by the U.S. Access Board in the Federal Register on January 18, 2017 Corrections to the ICT Final Rule as published by the US Access Board in the Federal Register on January 22, 2018	(Yes)
EN 301 549 Accessibility requirements suitable for public procurement of ICT products and services in Europe, - V1.1.2 (2015-04) at http://mandate376.standards.eu/standard	(Yes)

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.
- **Supports with Exceptions:** 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 2.0 Level AAA.

WCAG 2.0 Report

Tables 1 and 2 also document conformance with:

- EN 301 549: Chapter 9 - Web, Chapter 10 - Non-Web documents, Section 11.2.1- Non-Web Software (excluding closed functionality), and Section 11.2.2 - Non-Web Software (closed functionality).

- Revised Section 508: Chapter 5 – 501.1 Scope, 504.2 Content Creation or Editing, and Chapter 6 – 602.3 Electronic Support Documentation.

Note: When reporting on conformance with the WCAG 2.0 Success Criteria, they are scoped for full pages, complete processes, and accessibility-supported ways of using technology as documented in the [WCAG 2.0 Conformance Requirements](#).

Table 1: Success Criteria, Level A

Notes:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
<p><u>1.1.1 Non-text Content</u> (Level A) Also applies to: 2017 Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501 (Web)(Software) 504.2 (Authoring Tool) 602.3 (Support Docs) 	Supports with Exceptions	Most non-text elements include alt text to convey information, but some content, especially older material, may not.
<p><u>1.2.1 Audio-only and Video-only (Prerecorded)</u> (Level A) Also applies to: 2017 Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501 (Web)(Software) 504.2 (Authoring Tool) 602.3 (Support Docs) 	Supports	Chronicle.com uses 3 rd party plug-ins that conform to this requirement.
<p><u>1.2.2 Captions (Prerecorded)</u> (Level A) Also applies to: 2017 Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501 (Web)(Software) 504.2 (Authoring Tool) 602.3 (Support Docs) 	Supports	Chronicle.com uses 3 rd party plug-ins that conform to this requirement.
<p><u>1.2.3 Audio Description or Media Alternative (Prerecorded)</u> (Level A) Also applies to: 2017 Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501 (Web)(Software) 504.2 (Authoring Tool) 602.3 (Support Docs) 	Supports	Chronicle.com uses 3 rd party plug-ins that conform to this requirement.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
<p><u>1.3.1 Info and Relationships</u> (Level A)</p> <p>Also applies to: 2017 Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 	Supports	Chronicle.com uses semantically-correct markup so that information, structure, and relationships can be understood independent of presentation.
<p><u>1.3.2 Meaningful Sequence</u> (Level A)</p> <p>Also applies to: 2017 Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 	Supports	Chronicle.com uses semantically-correct markup to allow assistive technologies to interpret the meaning of content and controls.
<p><u>1.3.3 Sensory Characteristics</u> (Level A)</p> <p>Also applies to: 2017 Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 	Supports	Chronicle.com does not depend solely on sensory characteristics such as shape, size, visual location, orientation, or sound to understand content.
<p><u>1.4.1 Use of Color</u> (Level A)</p> <p>Also applies to: 2017 Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 	Supports	Chronicle.com does not depend solely on color to understand content.
<p><u>1.4.2 Audio Control</u> (Level A)</p> <p>Also applies to: 2017 Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 	Supports	Chronicle.com uses 3 rd party plug-ins that conform to this requirement.
<p><u>2.1.1 Keyboard</u> (Level A)</p> <p>Also applies to: 2017 Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) 	Supports with Exceptions	The majority of the functionality of the content of chronicle.com is accessible through a keyboard interface. Some exceptions include interactive images and drop-down menus.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 		
<p><u>2.1.2 No Keyboard Trap</u> (Level A)</p> <p>Also applies to: 2017 Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 	Supports	Chronicle.com does not contain keyboard traps.
<p><u>2.2.1 Timing Adjustable</u> (Level A)</p> <p>Also applies to: 2017 Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 	Not Applicable	Chronicle.com does not contain time-based limits.
<p><u>2.2.2 Pause, Stop, Hide</u> (Level A)</p> <p>Also applies to: 2017 Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 	Not Applicable	Chronicle.com does not include moving, blinking, scrolling, or auto-updating information.
<p><u>2.3.1 Three Flashes or Below Threshold</u> (Level A)</p> <p>Also applies to: 2017 Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 	Not Applicable	Chronicle.com does not use flashing interface elements.
<p><u>2.4.1 Bypass Blocks</u> (Level A)</p> <p>Also applies to: 2017 Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) – Does not apply to non-web software • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) – Does not apply to non-web docs 	Supports	A hidden link (available to screen readers) allows users to jump to the main content of each page.
<p><u>2.4.2 Page Titled</u> (Level A)</p>	Supports with Exceptions	Web pages within chronicle.com have titles, but not

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
<p>Also applies to: 2017 Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 		<p>all are descriptive enough to indicate the topic or purpose of each page.</p>
<p><u>2.4.3 Focus Order</u> (Level A)</p> <p>Also applies to: 2017 Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 	<p>Supports</p>	<p>Chronicle.com uses a logical tab order through interactive elements such as links and form controls.</p>
<p><u>2.4.4 Link Purpose (In Context)</u> (Level A)</p> <p>Also applies to: 2017 Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 	<p>Supports with Exceptions</p>	<p>Chronicle.com uses descriptive text or WAI-ARIA techniques, such as adding an “aria-label” attribute to links.</p> <p>However, because chronicle.com contains ever-changing editorial content, it can’t be guaranteed that all embedded links are descriptive.</p>
<p><u>3.1.1 Language of Page</u> (Level A)</p> <p>Also applies to: 2017 Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 	<p>Does Not Support</p>	<p>Chronicle.com does not use the language attribute on the HTML element to specify the default language of the page.</p>
<p><u>3.2.1 On Focus</u> (Level A)</p> <p>Also applies to: 2017 Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 	<p>Supports</p>	<p>When a component in chronicle.com receives focus, it does not initiate a change of context.</p>
<p><u>3.2.2 On Input</u> (Level A)</p> <p>Also applies to: 2017 Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) 	<p>Supports</p>	<p>Changing the setting of a component in a chronicle.com user interface does not initiate a change of context.</p>

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 504.2 (Authoring Tool) 602.3 (Support Docs) 		
<u>3.3.1 Error Identification</u> (Level A) Also applies to: 2017 Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501 (Web)(Software) 504.2 (Authoring Tool) 602.3 (Support Docs) 	Does Not Support	
<u>3.3.2 Labels or Instructions</u> (Level A) Also applies to: 2017 Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501 (Web)(Software) 504.2 (Authoring Tool) 602.3 (Support Docs) 	Supports	
<u>4.1.1 Parsing</u> (Level A) Also applies to: 2017 Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501 (Web)(Software) 504.2 (Authoring Tool) 602.3 (Support Docs) 	Supports	Chronicle.com uses semantically-correct markup for all interface elements.
<u>4.1.2 Name, Role, Value</u> (Level A) Also applies to: 2017 Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501 (Web)(Software) 504.2 (Authoring Tool) 602.3 (Support Docs) 	Supports	Chronicle.com uses standard HTML and WAI-ARIA attributes to describe the identity, operation, and state of user interface elements to Assistive Technologies.

Table 2: Success Criteria, Level AA

Notes:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
<u>1.2.4 Captions (Live)</u> (Level AA) Also applies to:	Not Applicable	Chronicle.com does not contain live audio.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
2017 Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 		
<u>1.2.5 Audio Description (Prerecorded)</u> (Level AA) Also applies to: 2017 Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 	Supports	Chronicle.com uses 3 rd party plug-ins that conform to this requirement.
<u>1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum)</u> (Level AA) Also applies to: 2017 Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 	Supports	The visual presentation of text on chronicle.com provides sufficient contrast.
<u>1.4.4 Resize text</u> (Level AA) Also applies to: 2017 Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 	Supports	Chronicle.com user interfaces support standards zoom capabilities built into modern web browsers and operating systems.
<u>1.4.5 Images of Text</u> (Level AA) Also applies to: 2017 Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 	Does Not Support	
<u>2.4.5 Multiple Ways</u> (Level AA) Also applies to: 2017 Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) – Does not apply to non-web 	Supports	Chronicle.com contains navigation links within each page to allow users to get to content in multiple ways.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
software <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) – Does not apply to non-web docs 		
<u>2.4.6 Headings and Labels</u> (Level AA) Also applies to: 2017 Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 	Supports	Chronicle.com uses semantically-correct markup for all interface elements, including headings and labels.
<u>2.4.7 Focus Visible</u> (Level AA) Also applies to: 2017 Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 	Supports	Chronicle.com uses visual changes to elements to indicate the current position of focus.
<u>3.1.2 Language of Parts</u> (Level AA) Also applies to: 2017 Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 	Not Applicable	Chronicle.com does not contain content written in multiple languages.
<u>3.2.3 Consistent Navigation</u> (Level AA) Also applies to: 2017 Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) – Does not apply to non-web software • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) – Does not apply to non-web docs 	Supports	Chronicle.com presents consistent navigation across content pages.
<u>3.2.4 Consistent Identification</u> (Level AA) Also applies to: 2017 Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) – Does not apply to non-web software • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) 	Supports	Chronicle.com uses a common set of components to ensure that user interface elements are labelled and referred to in a consistent manner.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 602.3 (Support Docs) – Does not apply to non-web docs 		
<p>3.3.3 Error Suggestion (Level AA)</p> <p>Also applies to: 2017 Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501 (Web)(Software) 504.2 (Authoring Tool) 602.3 (Support Docs) 	Does Not Support	
<p>3.3.4 Error Prevention (Legal, Financial, Data) (Level AA)</p> <p>Also applies to: 2017 Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501 (Web)(Software) 504.2 (Authoring Tool) 602.3 (Support Docs) 	Supports	Financial data provided on chronicle.com is checked for input errors and an opportunity to correct input is provided.

Table 3: Success Criteria, Level AAA

Notes: The Chronicle of Higher Education product (chronicle.com) has not been evaluated for WCAG 2.0 Level AAA conformance.

2017 Section 508 Report

Notes:

Chapter 3: Functional Performance Criteria (FPC)

Notes:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
302.1 Without Vision	Supports with Exceptions	Chronicle.com uses standard HTML and WAI-ARIA attributes to describe the identity and operation of user interface elements to Assistive Technologies. Chronicle.com does not consistently describe the state of user interface elements.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
302.2 With Limited Vision	Supports	Chronicle.com supports standard browser magnification and contrast adjustments.
302.3 Without Perception of Color	Supports	Color is only used as a decorative or supplemental attribute of user interface elements.
302.4 Without Hearing	Not Applicable	Chronicle.com does not include audio-only features that require hearing to be used.
302.5 With Limited Hearing	Not Applicable	Chronicle.com does not include audio-only features that require hearing to be used.
302.6 Without Speech	Not Applicable	Chronicle.com does not require speech input.
302.7 With Limited Manipulation	Supports	Chronicle.com supports standard input mechanisms such as user-provided keyboards and pointing devices. Usage of the product does not require fine motor controls nor simultaneous actions.
302.8 With Limited Reach and Strength	Not Applicable	
302.9 With Limited Language, Cognitive, and Learning Abilities	Supports	

Chapter 4: Hardware

Notes: The Chronicle of Higher Education product (chronicle.com) is a web software application and is not subject to the requirements of this section.

Chapter 5: Software

Notes:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
501.1 Scope – Incorporation of WCAG 2.0 AA	See WCAG 2.0 section	See information in WCAG section
502 Interoperability with Assistive Technology	Heading cell – no response required	Heading cell – no response required
502.2.1 User Control of Accessibility Features	Not Applicable	Chronicle.com is not considered

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
		platform software as defined by Section 508.
502.2.2 No Disruption of Accessibility Features	Supports	Chronicle.com is compatible with operating system and browser accessibility features configured by the user.
502.3 Accessibility Services	Heading cell – no response required	Heading cell – no response required
502.3.1 Object Information	Supports with Exceptions	Chronicle.com uses WAI-ARIA attributes to describe the role and description of user interface elements to assistive technologies.
502.3.2 Modification of Object Information	Supports	
502.3.3 Row, Column, and Headers	Supports	
502.3.4 Values	Supports	
502.3.5 Modification of Values	Supports	Chronicle.com uses standard HTML and ARIA object attributes for maximum compatibility with assistive technologies.
502.3.6 Label Relationships	Supports	Chronicle.com uses standard HTML and WAI-ARIA attributes to describe label relationships of user interface elements to assistive technologies. This includes the user of “<label>” and “area-labelledby” attributes.
502.3.7 Hierarchical Relationships	Supports	Chronicle.com uses standard HTML markup to express hierarchical relationships.
502.3.8 Text	Supports	Chronicle.com renders strings as plain text values in HTML for maximum compatibility with assistive technologies.
502.3.9 Modification of Text	Supports	Chronicle.com renders strings as plain text values in HTML for maximum compatibility with assistive

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
		technologies.
502.3.10 List of Actions	Supports with Exceptions	
502.3.11 Actions on Objects	Supports with Exceptions	
502.3.12 Focus Cursor	Supports	Chronicle.com uses visual changes to elements to indicate the current position of focus.
502.3.13 Modification of Focus Cursor	Supports	Chronicle.com uses standard HTML elements with standard cursor controls for user input.
502.3.14 Event Notification	Supports	
502.4 Platform Accessibility Features	Not Applicable	Chronicle.com is not considered platform software as defined by Section 508.
503 Applications	Heading cell – no response required	Heading cell – no response required
503.2 User Preferences	Supports	Chronicle.com respects user preferences from platform or OS settings. For example, if a user enables high contrast mode, chronicle.com will display with high contrast.
503.3 Alternative User Interfaces	Not Applicable	Chronicle.com does not provide any alternative user interfaces that function as assistive technology.
503.4 User Controls for Captions and Audio Description	Heading cell – no response required	Heading cell – no response required
503.4.1 Caption Controls	Supports with Exceptions	
503.4.2 Audio Description Controls	Supports with Exceptions	
504 Authoring Tools	Heading cell – no response required	Heading cell – no response required
504.2 Content Creation or Editing (if not authoring tool, enter “not applicable”)	See WCAG 2.0 section	See information in WCAG section
504.2.1 Preservation of Information Provided for Accessibility in Format Conversion	Not Applicable	
504.2.2 PDF Export	Not Applicable	
504.3 Prompts	Not Applicable	
504.4 Templates	Not Applicable	

Chapter 6: Support Documentation and Services

Notes: The Chronicle of Higher Education product (chronicle.com) does not include support documentation and services and is not subject to the requirements of this section.

EN 301 549 Report

Notes: Notes: The Chronicle of Higher Education product (chronicle.com) has not been evaluated for EN 301549 conformance.