Frostburg State University

Electronic Accessibility Policy

1.0   PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure accessibility to all users of Frostburg State University (FSU) web sites, including those with disabilities in accordance with State of Maryland Information Technology Policy.

2.0   SCOPE

This policy applies to the web development efforts of all FSU offices, departments, programs, and outsourced web site development and administration.

3.0   POLICY

Universal electronic access to web sites is provided for the purpose of conducting the business of higher education at Frostburg State University. Because the technologies that allow publishers to design, create, and access the World Wide Web are constantly evolving, current Electronic Accessibility Guidelines are posted on the University web site.

4.0   RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1 Executive-Level Responsibilities
The Administration and Finance division and the ADA Compliance Office will ensure compliance with this policy.

4.2 Webmaster Responsibilities
The FSU Webmaster is responsible for monitoring official FSU web pages and sites to ensure accessibility to all users. The FSU Webmaster must be familiar with relevant state policies and standards and communicate this information to University web page managers as appropriate.

4.3 Office, Department, and Program Web Page Managers' Responsibilities
Office, department, and program web pages are managed by an appointed web page manager, who is responsible for ensuring that all web pages in the unit's web site follow accessibility specifications. Current web accessibility specifications are available on the University web site or by contacting the FSU Webmaster.

5.0   GUIDANCE

W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines: http://www.w3.org/TR/WAI-WEBCONTENT/
The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) is an international industry consortium of over 300 organizations created to ensure optimal access to web sites and their content. These Guidelines explain how to provide accessibility to a wide audience, including alternatives to auditory and visual content and designing for device independence (e.g., mouse, keyboard, voice, head wand).

Federal Access Board Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility Standards: http://www.access-board.gov/sec508/nprm.htm
The Access Board is an independent Federal agency devoted to accessibility for people with disabilities. The Board's standards assist the states in their efforts to provide broad access to all customers via the Internet.

National Federation of the Blind Web Accessibility: http://www.nfb.org/tech/webacc.htm
This web site provides guidance to web site developers who want to ensure that their web pages are accessible to and usable by the blind.

Watchfire Bobby: http://bobby.watchfire.com/bobby/html/en/index.jsp -*Discontinued*
Bobby is a free web-based evaluation tool that web site developers can use to analyze web pages for accessibility to people with disabilities.

6.0   ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Questions regarding FSU's Electronic Accessibility Policy should be directed to the ADA Compliance Officer or the FSU Webmaster.

Internal