PLS 3rd Learning Accessibility Statement

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Mission Statement

PLS 3rd Learning is committed to ensuring that its digital products are accessible to all users, regardless of their ability or the technology they're using. This includes people with visual, hearing, cognitive or motor impairments.

We are continually working on improving the accessibility and usability of our platforms.

PLS 3rd Learning is working towards conforming with level AA of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 and Section 508 Standards of the U.S. Rehabilitation Act.

Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 standards are set by World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), the main international standards organization for the Internet. These guidelines are widely accepted as the standards for digital accessibility and serve as the basis of most accessibility regulations worldwide.

The Section 508 Standards were established to implement Section 508 of the U.S. Rehabilitation Act, which requires government agencies to provide access to electronic and information technologies for disabled individuals that is comparable to access available to non-disabled individuals.

Please note: This Statement was last updated in April 2022, and all information contained within is correct as of that date.

Accessibility explained

We are committed to ensuring that our digital products are accessible to all users, regardless of their ability or assistive technology they use.

Visual - includes blind low vision and color blind:

PLS 3rd Learning strives to ensure compatibility of its platforms with popular screen readers.

Motor includes people who are not able to use a mouse:

PLS 3rd Learning is navigable via the keyboard, without the need to use the mouse. Pages also include a "Skip to Main Content" link to easily navigate past repetitive navigation.

Cognitive - includes dyslexia, ADD, and epilepsy:

To assist users with cognitive disabilities, we have enhanced the platform so that all graphical elements have meaningful text equivalents. Pages are descriptively titled, and global navigation links are consistent across pages to make it easy to understand the layout of the platform.

Accessibility principles

All accessibility enhancements on PLS 3rd Learning Online have been implemented in line with [the Four Principles of Accessibility](#), as published by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C). These principles provide that websites should be:

1) Perceivable - Users must be able to perceive the information being presented to them by at least one of their senses.
2) Operable - This means that users must be able to operate the interface. The interface cannot require interaction that a user cannot perform.
3) Understandable - Users must be able to understand the information as well as the operation of the user interface.
4) Robust - Content must be robust enough that it can be interpreted reliably by a wide variety of user agents, including assistive technologies. This means that users must be able to access the content as technologies advance.

Accessibility features

PLS 3rd Learning is committed to meeting the Four Principles of Accessibility, as set out above. As a result, we continue to make updates to our products on a monthly schedule.

Principle 1 - Perceivable

Readability

- Information is presented with consideration for readability. Foreground is separated from background with the use of appropriate color and contrast.
- Text and images of text have a contrast ratio of at least 4:5:1.
- Text can be resized without assistive technology (up to 200%) without loss of content or functionality.

Alternative text for images

- Most non-text elements outside of journal content are provided with alternative text.

Adaptable content

- The reading and navigation order are logical and intuitive.
- Content can be presented without loss of information or functionality.
- The display is responsive. Content view and operation is not restricted to a single display orientation, such as portrait or landscape.

Principle 2 – Operable

A user can easily use controls, buttons, navigation, etc.

Keyboard accessible

- All platform functionalities are operable through keyboard interface. The user can navigate to and from all navigable page elements using only a keyboard.

Page structure

- Headings hierarchy is correctly used to organize content.
- Web pages have titles that clearly describe topic or purpose.
- All labels and fields are clearly defined.
- The purpose of each link can be determined from the text alone or the link text.
- Components receive focus in an order that preserves meaning and operability.
- The navigation order of links, form elements, etc. is logical and intuitive.

Navigation

- Consistent, global navigation links are provided.
- There are multiple ways to navigate online e.g. Site Map, Menu, and the Search functionality.
- There is a mechanism in place to bypass the main navigation.

Avoid flashing and blinking text

- Web pages do not contain anything that flashes more than three times in any one second, or the flash is below the general flash and red flash threshold.

Principle 3 – Understandable

Technology is consistent in its presentation and format, predictable in its design and usage patterns.

Input assistance

- Provides text descriptions to identify required fields that were not completed. These suggestions help users to complete required information.

Predictable web pages

- Web pages are predictable and operate in a consistent way. Repeated components are presented in the same relative order every time they appear.
- Headings are used correctly to display content.
- Focus is used appropriately.
- Navigation is consistent.

Aria Labels

- Unique and descriptive names have been used for each link. ARIA roles and landmarks have been used whenever necessary.

Principle 4 - Robust

Browser support

- PLS 3rd Learning supports all modern browsers and follows the graceful degradation web design strategy for older browsers. This means that all content should be available but newer features may not be fully supported.

Screen readers

- PLS 3rd Learning platform has been built to modern web standards using valid HTML and CSS.
- We have used headings properly to help assistive technology users browse the page content.
- We have improved focus of certain elements and labelling.
- PLS 3rd Learning is compatible with all known major hardware devices and it automatically adapts to different screen sizes depending on the device being used (e.g. mobile, tablet or laptop).
- We have increased size of tap targets for mobile users (links and buttons).

Ensuring accessibility

We use a combination of manual testing and automated tools to test the PLS 3rd Learning platforms for accessibility. Automated tools used include:

- SortSite 6.41.914.0
- Axe plugin for Chrome
- WAVE plugin for Chrome

No accessibility tool provides a 100% thorough assessment of a website's level of accessibility. Therefore, we also carry out manual reviews of the PLS 3rd Learning platforms. This includes a review of the platform by a vision-impaired accessibility specialist who performed a manual test of our platform using assistive technology. At PLS 3rd Learning we also continually monitor our practices to ensure that accessibility is embedded at every step of the process.

Help and support

If you have any accessibility issues, or if you have any comments or questions related to accessibility, please let us know by emailing support@pls3rdlearning.com.