

WCAG 2.0 COLOR CONTRAST RATIOS AND THE UVM COLOR PALETTE

Understanding the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 can be difficult and time consuming. This reference sheet looks at color combinations within the UVM color palette that meet and exceed accessibility standards.

How it works:

Color combinations with higher contrast ratios are easier to read for people with and without visual impairments. Sometimes pairings that seem fine to one person may not be accessible to another, which is why WCAG 2.0 set specific ratio standards. **AAA Normal** is the highest ratio standard. **AA Large** is lowest acceptable standard.

The standards:

WCAG 2.0 has two different standards for color contrast ratios, AA and AAA. AAA ratios are considered more accessible than AA, but both are acceptable. Each standard has two subsets: an acceptable ratio for normal sized text and an acceptable ratio for large-sized text (bold 14 point and larger, or regular 18 point and larger).

Bright Green
Bright Green
AAA Normal: Black

Light Green
Light Green
Light Green
AAA Normal: Black
AA Large: UVM Green

Sky Blue
Sky Blue
Sky Blue
AAA Normal: Black
AA Large: UVM Green

Bright Yellow
Bright Yellow
Bright Yellow
AAA Normal: Black
AA Large: UVM Green

UVM Green
UVM Green
UVM Green
UVM Green
UVM Green
UVM Green

UVM Green
AAA Large: White
AA Large: Black, Light Green, Sky Blue, Bright Yellow, Mid Blue

Mid Blue
Mid Blue
Mid Blue
Mid Blue

Mid Blue
AAA Normal: Black
AA Large: UVM Green

Orange
Orange
Orange

Orange
AAA Normal: Black

Yellow Ochre
Yellow Ochre
Yellow Ochre

Yellow Ochre
AAA Normal: Black

Dark Blue
Dark Blue
Dark Blue
Dark Blue

Dark Blue
AAA Normal: Black
AA Large: White

Key: **Normal** = compliant with normal size and style font;
Large = compliant only when size 14+ bold or 18+ regular

This document was prepared by the Center on Disability and Community Inclusion. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact jeanne.nauheimer@uvm.edu

