WCAG 2.1 AA Learning-Video Readiness Checklist

Run every course video — and the player it plays in — through this audit before launch. The target is WCAG 2.1 Level AA, the standard US and EU law now name for educational video.

A. Media track — captions and audio description

- ☐ Captions on every prerecorded video: speaker labels + non-speech sound (1.2.2 · A)
- ☐ Live captions on every webinar and virtual class (1.2.4 · AA)
- ☐ Audio description of on-screen visuals not spoken aloud (1.2.5 · AA)
- ☐ Captions human-verified for accuracy, not raw auto-captions

B. The player must be operable

- ☐ Every control works by keyboard alone, no mouse (2.1.1 · A)
- ☐ Visible focus indicator on every control (2.4.7 · AA)
- ☐ Controls expose name, role, and state to screen readers (4.1.2 · A)
- ☐ Text contrast ≥ 4.5:1; controls and icons ≥ 3:1 (1.4.3 / 1.4.11 · AA)

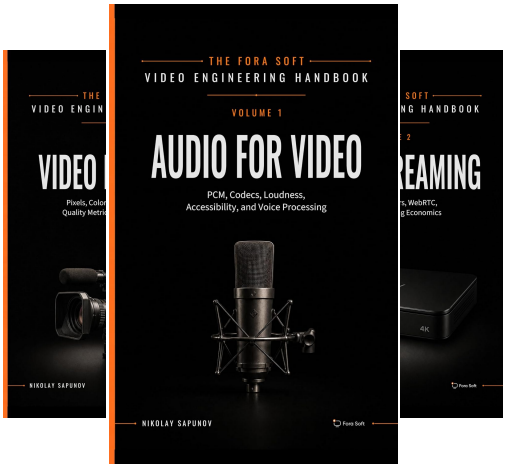
C. Around the video

- ☐ Slides and handouts are real text, not images of text (1.4.5 · AA)
- ☐ Quizzes never rely on color alone to show the answer (1.4.1 · A)
- ☐ Diagrams, thumbnails, and links carry descriptive text
- ☐ Transcript for audio-only; alternative for silent video (1.2.1 · A)

D. Proof and process

- ☐ Tested three ways: automated, manual, and with a screen reader
- ☐ Current VPAT / Accessibility Conformance Report on file
- ☐ ADA Title II deadline known: Apr 2027 (≥ 50k) / Apr 2028
- ☐ Accessibility written into the production brief, not retrofitted

Companion to: 'WCAG 2.1 AA for Educational Video'
www.forasoft.com/learn/elearning-video/articles-elearning/wcag-2-1-aa-for-educational-video



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This checklist audits course video, the player and the material around it against WCAG 2.1 AA. We wrote seven volumes on the video stack: Volume 4 covers captions, accessibility and loudness, Volume 3 players and subtitle rendering, and Volume 1 encoding.

WHAT YOU WILL FIND INSIDE

- Captions and audio description
- Subtitle rendering in the player
- Accessible player controls
- Loudness for spoken content

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Vol. 1 · Video Encoding — pixels and color to H.264, HEVC, AV1, quality metrics and AI

Vol. 2 · Video Streaming I — network transport, contribution and ingest, HLS, MPEG-DASH, CMAF

Vol. 3 · Video Streaming II — ABR, CDNs, players, WebRTC, DRM and the economics of delivery

Vol. 4 · Audio for Video I — PCM, codecs, loudness, accessibility, real-time voice processing

Vol. 5 · Audio for Video II — jitter buffers, lip sync, Atmos, quality metrics, neural codecs

Vol. 6 · AI for Video I — models and inference, computer vision, speech, search, generative video

Vol. 7 · AI for Video II — real-time pipelines, agents, serving, cost, compliance, verticals

Need your course video and player to pass WCAG 2.1 AA?

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