



SUCCESS STORY: ASUCLA

Achieving Over 90% ADA
Compliance with
79Consulting



ASUCLA

The Associated Students of the University of California, Los Angeles (ASUCLA) faced a critical challenge: ensuring their website met the stringent requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The website was built on NetSuite Suite Commerce (SCA) and while SCA offers a powerful platform, it requires careful customization to achieve the necessary accessibility.

WHY ADA COMPLIANCE MATTERS

IN HIGHER EDUCATION

- Educational institutions have a legal and ethical obligation to create an inclusive learning environment for all students. This mandate includes adhering to:
- Section 508: Ensuring federal electronic and IT resources are accessible to people with disabilities.
- ADA Title II: Prohibiting discrimination by state and local governments, including public educational institutions.
- Furthermore, the increasing reliance on assistive technologies demands accessible digital content to ensure equal participation for all learners.

THE STAKES ARE HIGH

Universities typically aim for an ADA compliance score of 80-90% or higher, aligning with WCAG 2.1 AA standards. However, many institutions fall short. A recent AAAtaq assessment revealed that a staggering 90% of higher education websites exhibit accessibility issues, exposing them to significant legal risks and substantial financial penalties.

ASUCLA'S JOURNEY TO COMPLIANCE

Recognizing the critical importance of ADA compliance, ASUCLA partnered with 79Consulting. An initial assessment confirmed the website's non-compliance, highlighting the potential legal and reputational risks.

The 79Consulting team conducted a thorough review of the ASUCLA website, identifying and implementing the necessary changes to ensure adherence to WCAG guidelines and Section 508 requirements. This collaborative effort resulted in an impressive achievement: an ADA compliance score exceeding 90%.

BENEFITS BEYOND COMPLIANCE

By achieving ADA compliance, ASUCLA not only fulfills its legal obligations but also:

- Enhances Inclusivity: Creates a more welcoming and equitable learning environment for all students.
- Improves Accessibility: Enables students with disabilities to fully engage with online resources and participate in online learning activities.
- Enhances Reputation: Demonstrates a commitment to accessibility and inclusivity to the broader community.

CONCLUSION

ASUCLA's successful journey to ADA compliance serves as a model for other educational institutions. By partnering with 79Consulting, ASUCLA not only addressed a critical legal and ethical imperative but also demonstrated its commitment to creating an inclusive and accessible learning experience for all students.

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