

FEASIBILITY REPORT

Feasibility of Accessibility Improvements

Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine M.D. Program Academic Enrichment Webpage

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Portfolio Edition: Revised August 2026

Portfolio Edition Note:

This edition preserves the original 2024 report while updating document structure, clarity, and presentation. A table of contents and Appendix A: Implementation Follow-Up were added in August 2026 to improve navigation and document subsequent review findings.

Related Portfolio Deliverables

- [Webpage Accessibility Evaluation: Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine M.D. Program Academic Enrichment Webpage](#)

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Executive Summary

This feasibility report evaluates solutions for improving accessibility on the [Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine \(MCASOM\) M.D. Program Academic Enrichment webpage](#). The proposed solutions address three Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 nonconformance issues identified by Dustin Smith's accessibility evaluation performed in February (Smith, 2024). Addressing these issues requires limited resources while improving usability and supporting the school's commitment to accessible digital content. The analysis provides a practical basis for determining whether the recommended improvements can be implemented efficiently within existing technical and organizational resources.

Introduction

This report evaluates the feasibility of addressing accessibility issues identified on the Academic Enrichment webpage. The evaluation considers the context, financial cost, resource requirements, and organizational value of implementing the proposed accessibility improvements. By addressing these issues, MCASOM can facilitate better engagement with its diverse user base, fostering an inclusive digital environment and enriching the academic journey of all students.

Background and Context

The Academic Enrichment webpage provides current and prospective MCASOM students with information about opportunities to customize their academic experience. These opportunities include dual degrees, global health, research, electives, certificates, and distinction-track programs. WCAG nonconformance can create barriers to digital content for users with auditory, cognitive, motor, and visual disabilities. Improving accessibility can help provide more equitable access to educational information and resources for current and prospective students.

Evaluation Criteria

The following criteria are used to evaluate the feasibility of accessibility improvements for the Academic Enrichment webpage.

- **Financial Cost:** Cost estimates consider the labor required to implement and test improvements such as assigning unique ID attributes, improving focus indicators, and correcting icon contrast. Outsourced development is estimated at \$50 per hour (ZipRecruiter, 2024).
- **Public Perception:** Improving accessibility demonstrates a commitment to inclusive digital experiences and supports alignment with Mayo Clinic's RICH TIES values: Respect, Integrity, Compassion, Healing, Teamwork, Innovation, Excellence, and Stewardship.
- **Resources Needed:** Implementation requires access to the webpage's HTML, CSS, or content management system; web-development expertise; and staff time for accessibility and usability testing.

Evaluation of Solutions

1. Assign a Unique ID to the “Back to Top” Element

- **Financial Cost: Low to Moderate.** A web developer would modify the webpage’s HTML to assign a unique ID to the “Back to Top” focusable element and test the change. Estimated outsourced labor: \$150 at \$50 per hour (ZipRecruiter, 2024).
- **Public Perception: Positive.** Correcting the ID attribute supports standards-conforming markup and demonstrates attention to accessibility requirements.
- **Resources Needed: Minimal.** This solution requires access to the website’s content management system or HTML and the expertise of a web developer. Existing staff with appropriate web-development skills may be able to implement and test the change without additional outside resources.

2. Increase the Contrast Ratio of Nonconforming Footer Link Text Links.

- **Financial Cost: Low.** Correcting the Footer Link Text contrast requires adjusting its color properties in the CSS and verifying the resulting contrast ratio. Estimated outsourced labor: \$50 at \$50 per hour (ZipRecruiter, 2024).
- **Public Perception: Positive.** Addressing the issue demonstrates the organization’s commitment to an inclusive user experience. Improved contrast supports accessibility standards and makes the interface easier to perceive for users with low vision or other visual disabilities.
- **Resources Needed: Minimal.** The change requires access to the webpage’s CSS and a developer familiar with web accessibility. The limited scope should not require extensive resources or specialized development tools.

3. Improve Keyboard Navigation.

- **Financial Cost: Moderate.** Resolving keyboard-navigation issues requires reviewing the webpage’s HTML and CSS, evaluating keyboard focus order and focus visibility, and testing the resulting changes across browsers and devices. Estimated outsourced labor: up to \$400 total at \$50 per hour (ZipRecruiter, 2024).
- **Public Perception: Very Positive.** Enhancing keyboard navigation significantly improves usability for individuals who rely on keyboard navigation. Making these changes demonstrates a strong commitment to accessibility and equitable access.
- **Resources Needed: Moderate.** This solution requires a web developer with front-end development expertise to modify the navigation and focus mechanisms.

Conclusion

Improving the accessibility of the MCASOM M.D. Program Academic Enrichment webpage is feasible based on the estimated financial cost, resource requirements, and expected accessibility benefits. The proposed solutions address the identified WCAG nonconformance issues through targeted HTML and CSS changes. Implementation can reduce accessibility barriers while requiring relatively limited financial and staff resources.

Final Recommendation

This report recommends that MCASOM proceed with the proposed accessibility improvements and complete implementation before the next academic year. The proposed changes require relatively limited financial and technical resources while addressing identified accessibility barriers. Implementing the recommendations will support more equitable access for current and prospective students and align with the institution's accessibility goals.

References

Smith, D. (2024). Webpage Accessibility Evaluation: Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine. Minnesota State University, Mankato.

ZipRecruiter. (2024, March 30). Freelance Front End Web Developer Salary. Retrieved from <https://www.ziprecruiter.com/Salaries/Freelance-Front-End-Web-Developer-Salary>

Appendix A: Implementation Follow-Up

A follow-up review conducted in August 2026 found measurable changes in two of the three accessibility areas addressed by the original feasibility report. Footer link-text contrast and keyboard-navigation behavior showed improvement, while the duplicate-ID issue associated with the “Back to top” controls remains present.

These results support the original conclusion that targeted accessibility improvements could be implemented through relatively limited changes to the webpage. The follow-up does not establish that the original report directly caused the observed modifications.

Implementation Summary

Recommendation	2026 Observation
Correct unique ID	Unresolved
Improve footer link-text contrast	Resolved & Improved
Improve keyboard navigation	Resolved

Follow-Up Conclusion

The 2026 review supports the original feasibility assessment that the identified accessibility issues could be addressed through targeted webpage modifications without requiring a comprehensive redesign. Two recommended areas now demonstrate improvement, while the unique-ID issue continues to require remediation.

Detailed testing methods, findings, and verification results are documented in the related Webpage Accessibility Evaluation: [Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine M.D. Program Academic Enrichment Webpage.](#)