A. **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to document the industry best practices with which the University will align its information technology accessibility activities.

B. **AUTHORITY**

*Virginia Code Section 23-9.2:3, as amended*, grants authority to the Board of Visitors to establish rules and regulations for the institution. Section 6.01(a) (6) of the *Board of Visitors Bylaws* grants authority to the President to implement the policies and procedures of the Board relating to University operations.

*Virginia Code Section 23-38.88, as amended*, Eligibility for Restructured Financial and Administrative Operational Authority.

*Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 508*

C. **DEFINITIONS**

**Accessibility**- Refers to the University objective that everyone within the University community, regardless of physical disability, will have the opportunity for appropriate access to information technology.

*The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)* - An international organization that develops interoperable technologies to lead the Web to its full potential. W3C is a forum of information, commerce, communication, and collective understanding.

D. **SCOPE**

This policy applies to all decision makers, developers and planners of campus systems and operations related to the conceptualization, design, acquisition, and maintenance of information technology.

E. **POLICY STATEMENT**

The procurement, development, and/or maintenance of information technology and user support services for persons with disabilities align with accessibility standards specified in *Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act* and in *Web Content Accessibility Guidelines* from the
World Wide Web Consortium, appropriately tailored to the specific circumstances of the University.

Accessibility standards are designed to evolve and change, as newer technologies are introduced and user needs change. At the same time, the standards maintain a consistent framework for accessibility training and support services. University information technology development, maintenance, training, and support personnel responsible for information technology procurement, programs, and services should possess an appropriate level of technical knowledge related to accessibility standards for persons with disabilities.

F. PROCEDURES

Procedures are available on the Information Technology Services IT Policies and University Web and Digital Communication websites and are also linked below.

- ITS Standard 09.1.0 - Accessibility
- Old Dominion University Accessibility Rules
- Web Accessibility Guidelines
- ODU Web Developer’s Style Guide
- Building Accessible Web Sites
- ALT Tags in ODUEdit Pro
- ALT Tags in Dreamweaver

G. RESPONSIBLE OFFICER

CIO and Associate Vice President for University Services

H. RELATED INFORMATION

- University Policy 4500 - Accommodation of Students with Disabilities
- Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 1.0
- Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0
- United States Access Board
- Office of Educational Accessibility
POLICY HISTORY
************************************************************************
Policy Formulation Committee (PFC) & Responsible Officer Approval to Proceed:
/s/ Rusty Waterfield __________________________ February 7, 2011
Responsible Officer Signature Date

Policy Review Committee (PRC) Approval to Proceed:
/s/ Donna W. Meeks __________________________ December 14, 2010
Policy Review Committee (PRC), Date
Chair Signature

Executive Policy Review Committee (EPRC) Approval to Proceed:
/s/ Robert L. Fenning ______________________ April 19, 2011
Responsible Oversight Executive Signature Date

University Counsel Approval to Proceed:
/s/ Patrick B. Kelly ______________________ April 22, 2011
University Counsel Date

Presidential Approval:
/s/ John R. Broderick ______________________ April 26, 2011
President Date

Policy Revision Dates: April 9, 2010; April 26, 2011

Scheduled Review Date: April 25, 2016