



# Open Learning Initiative/Torus Education Accessibility Conformance Report

## Revised Section 508 Edition

(Based on VPAT<sup>®</sup> Version 2.4)

**Name of Product/Version:** Open Learning Initiative (delivery platform)

**Report Date:** May 2024

**Product Description:** Open Learning Initiative's (OLI) Torus platform provides an end-to-end platform for the creation, adoption, delivery, and improvement of adaptive digital learning experiences. Educators and course designers can use OLI to select existing course products, create brand new products, and modify existing products to suit their specific teaching objectives. OLI's authoring tool and content and tools gives educators and designers everything they need to create pedagogically sound learning experiences that capture learner interaction data to drive feedback loops for learners, educators, and researchers. The platform can operate in stand-alone mode or via LTI integration. Torus development continues as an open-source project with major contributions from Carnegie Mellon University, Arizona State University, and Unicon, Inc. among others.

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**Contact Information:** [help@oli.cmu.edu](mailto:help@oli.cmu.edu)

**Notes:** This conformance report focuses exclusively on the affordances and capabilities of the Torus delivery platform and its natively supported content types. Because content for courses delivered on Torus is developed and revised by a large, diverse community of educators and learning designers, specific content within courses may not leverage the platform in a fully conforming manner. Typically, these issues are corrected within courses as they are identified, as the content owner and delivering educator seek to constantly improve their learning experiences. Similarly, many courses in Torus incorporate third-party activities like labs and simulations and may deviate from OLI standards.

The OLI open-source community constantly strives to ensure that the technology and learning experiences it delivers is as accessible as possible. A key tenet of OLI is to give educators and designers a place where end-to-end creation and delivery is designed for both the introduction of many contributors to expand the available content and services while simultaneously improving the learner experience and assuring the highest levels of accessibility support.

We and our partners are committed to this work; as issues are identified please report them to [help@oli.cmu.edu](mailto:help@oli.cmu.edu) and we will seek to resolve them in a timely manner.

**Evaluation Methods Used:** The information contained in this report is derived from an ongoing set of efforts, including third-party work and continuous reviews by the development teams supporting the open-source effort. CMU's Eberly Center for Teaching Excellence and Educational Innovation and Office of Disability Resources is regularly engaged with the development teams to provide guidance and evaluation support.

This Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT) is the result of these combined

efforts and is updated as new issues are identified and addressed.

## Applicable Standards/Guidelines

This report covers the degree of conformance for the following accessibility standard/guidelines:

Standard/Guideline	Included In Report
<a href="#">Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0</a>	Level A (Yes) Level AA (Yes) Level AAA (No)
<a href="#">Revised Section 508 standards published January 18, 2017 and corrected January 22, 2018</a>	(Yes)

## Terms

The terms used in the Conformance Level information are defined as follows:

- **Supports:** The functionality of the product has at least one method that meets the criterion without known defects or meets with equivalent facilitation.
- **Partially Supports:** Some functionality of the product does not meet the criterion.
- **Does Not Support:** The majority of product functionality does not meet the criterion.
- **Not Applicable:** The criterion is not relevant to the product.
- **Not Evaluated:** The product has not been evaluated against the criterion. This can be used only in WCAG 2.0 Level AAA.

## WCAG 2.0 Report

Tables 1 and 2 also document conformance with Revised Section 508:

- Chapter 5 – 501.1 Scope, 504.2 Content Creation or Editing

- Chapter 6 – 602.3 Electronic Support Documentation

Note: When reporting on conformance with the WCAG 2.0 Success Criteria, they are scoped for full pages, complete processes, and accessibility-supported ways of using technology as documented in the [WCAG 2.0 Conformance Requirements](#).

**Table 1: Success Criteria, Level A**

Notes:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
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<p><b><u>1.1.1 Non-text Content</u></b> (Level A)  Also applies to:  Revised Section 508  • 501 (Web)(Software)</p>	<p>Web: Supports</p>	<p>Web: Torus supports alternative text for images, and captions for complex graphics; long descriptions and alternate text are also supported for non-text and arbitrary content.</p>
<p><b><u>1.2.1 Audio-only and Video-only (Prerecorded)</u></b> (Level A)  Also applies to:  Revised Section 508  • 501 (Web)(Software)</p>	<p>Web: Supports</p>	<p>Web: Torus supports equivalent alternatives for audio and video for hosted videos; these transcripts are available for all learners. We support multiple video streaming services (YouTube and Vimeo) and encourage their use for video and captioning. Finally, we routinely provide advice and best practices for creating captions and transcripts.</p>
<p><b><u>1.2.2 Captions (Prerecorded)</u></b> (Level A)  Also applies to:  Revised Section 508  • 501 (Web)(Software)</p>	<p>Web: Partially supports</p>	<p>Web: Torus supports equivalent alternatives for audio and video for hosted videos; these transcripts are available for all learners. We support multiple video streaming services (YouTube and Vimeo) and encourage their use for video and captioning. Finally, we routinely provide advice and best practices for creating captions and transcripts.</p>
<p><b><u>1.2.3 Audio Description or Media Alternative (Prerecorded)</u></b> (Level A)  Also applies to:  Revised Section 508  • 501 (Web)(Software)</p>	<p>Web: Supports</p>	<p>Web: Torus supports alternatives for audio and video; descriptions are dependent on content authors.</p>
<p><b><u>1.3.1 Info and Relationships</u></b> (Level A)  Also applies to:  Revised Section 508  • 501 (Web)(Software)</p>	<p>Web: Supports</p>	<p>Web: Reading order is correct and code order matches visual experience.</p>
<p><b><u>1.3.2 Meaningful Sequence</u></b> (Level A)  Also applies to:  Revised Section 508</p>	<p>Web: Supports</p>	<p>Web: Torus supports titles, headings, and structural elements for a meaningful sequence. Code order matches visual experience.</p>

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
<p>• 501 (Web)(Software)</p>		

<p><b><u>1.3.3 Sensory Characteristics</u></b> (Level A)  Also applies to:  Revised Section 508  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 501 (Web)(Software)</li> </ul> </p>	Web: Supports	Web:
<p><b><u>1.4.1 Use of Color</u></b> (Level A)  Also applies to:  Revised Section 508  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 501 (Web)(Software)</li> <li>• 504.2 (Authoring Tool)</li> <li>• 602.3 (Support Docs)</li> </ul> </p>	Web: Electronic Docs: Software: Authoring Tool:	Web: Electronic Docs: Software: Authoring Tool:
<p><b><u>1.4.2 Audio Control</u></b> (Level A)  Also applies to:  Revised Section 508  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 501 (Web)(Software)</li> </ul> </p>	Web: Supports	Web:
<p><b><u>2.1.1 Keyboard</u></b> (Level A)  Also applies to:  Revised Section 508  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 501 (Web)(Software)</li> </ul> </p>	Web: Supports	Web:
<p><b><u>2.1.2 No Keyboard Trap</u></b> (Level A)  Also applies to:  Revised Section 508  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 501 (Web)(Software)</li> </ul> </p>	Web:	Web: Supports keyboard only navigations in compliant courses – legacy courses may contain non-standard pages that are no longer compliant with current navigation requirements. These situations are very rare and are addressed as identified.
<p><b><u>2.2.1 Timing Adjustable</u></b> (Level A)  Also applies to:  Revised Section 508  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 501 (Web)(Software)</li> </ul> </p>	Web: Supports	Web:
<p><b><u>2.2.2 Pause, Stop, Hide</u></b> (Level A)  Also applies to:  Revised Section 508  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 501 (Web)(Software)</li> </ul> </p>	Web: Supports	Web:
<p><b><u>2.3.1 Three Flashes or Below Threshold</u></b> (Level A)  Also applies to:</p>	Web: Supports	Web:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
Revised Section 508 • 501 (Web)(Software)		
<u><a href="#">2.4.1 Bypass Blocks</a></u> (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 • 501 (Web)(Software) – Does not apply to non-web software	Web: Supports	Web:
<u><a href="#">2.4.2 Page Titled</a></u> (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 • 501 (Web)(Software)	Web: Supports	Web:
<u><a href="#">2.4.3 Focus Order</a></u> (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 • 501 (Web)(Software)	Web: Supports	Web: Third party activity integration may occasionally interfere with proper ordering
<u><a href="#">2.4.4 Link Purpose (In Context)</a></u> (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 • 501 (Web)(Software)	Web: Supports	Web: Torus support. Course Authors are responsible for ensuring their links contain appropriate context.
<u><a href="#">3.1.1 Language of Page</a></u> (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 • 501 (Web)(Software)	Web: Supports	Web: Language supported at a page level; capabilities have expanded to provide language attribute at a content block level, however this capability is still being leveraged by authors.
<u><a href="#">3.2.1 On Focus</a></u> (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 • 501 (Web)(Software)	Web: Supports	Web:
<u><a href="#">3.2.2 On Input</a></u> (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 • 501 (Web)(Software)	Web: Supports	Web:

<p><b><u>3.3.1 Error Identification</u></b> (Level A)  Also applies to:  Revised Section 508  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 501 (Web)(Software)</li> </ul> </p>	Web: Supports	Web:
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<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Conformance Level</b>	<b>Remarks and Explanations</b>
<p><b><u>3.3.2 Labels or Instructions</u></b> (Level A)  Also applies to:  Revised Section 508  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 501 (Web)(Software)</li> </ul> </p>	Web: Supports	Web:
<p><b><u>4.1.1 Parsing</u></b> (Level A)  Also applies to:  Revised Section 508  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 501 (Web)(Software)</li> </ul> </p>	Web: Supports	Web:
<p><b><u>4.1.2 Name, Role, Value</u></b> (Level A)  Also applies to:  Revised Section 508  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 501 (Web)(Software)</li> </ul> </p>	Web: Supports	Web:

**Table 2: Success Criteria, Level AA**

Notes:

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Conformance Level</b>	<b>Remarks and Explanations</b>
<p><b><u>1.2.4 Captions (Live)</u></b> (Level AA)  Also applies to:  Revised Section 508  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 501 (Web)(Software)</li> </ul> </p>	Web: Not Applicable	Web:
<p><b><u>1.2.5 Audio Description (Prerecorded)</u></b> (Level AA)  Also applies to:  Revised Section 508  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 501 (Web)(Software)</li> </ul> </p>	Web: Supports	Web:



<p><a href="#">1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum)</a> (Level AA)  Also applies to:  Revised Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 501 (Web)(Software)</li> </ul>	Web: Supports	Web: Torus features Dark mode, Light mode, and an option that mirrors the device's mode.
<p><a href="#">1.4.4 Resize text</a> (Level AA)  Also applies to:  Revised Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 501 (Web)(Software)</li> </ul>	Web: Supports	Web:

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Conformance Level</b>	<b>Remarks and Explanations</b>
<p><a href="#">1.4.5 Images of Text</a> (Level AA)  Also applies to:  Revised Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 501 (Web)(Software)</li> </ul>	Web: Supports	Web:
<p><a href="#">2.4.5 Multiple Ways</a> (Level AA)  Also applies to:  Revised Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 501 (Web)(Software) – Does not apply to non-web software</li> </ul>	Web: Supports	Web:
<p><a href="#">2.4.6 Headings and Labels</a> (Level AA)  Also applies to:  Revised Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 501 (Web)(Software)</li> </ul>	Web: Supports	Web:
<p><a href="#">2.4.7 Focus Visible</a> (Level AA)  Also applies to:  Revised Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 501 (Web)(Software)</li> </ul>	Web: Supports	Web:
<p><a href="#">3.1.2 Language of Parts</a> (Level AA)  Also applies to:  Revised Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 501 (Web)(Software)</li> </ul>	Web: Supports	Web: Torus provides language attributes at a content block (part) level, and permits to authors to specify these attributes.

<p><b><a href="#">3.2.3 Consistent Navigation</a></b> (Level AA)  Also applies to:  Revised Section 508  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 501 (Web)(Software) – Does not apply to non-web software</li> </ul> </p>	Web: Supports	Web:
<p><b><a href="#">3.2.4 Consistent Identification</a></b> (Level AA)  Also applies to:  Revised Section 508  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 501 (Web)(Software) – Does not apply to non-web software</li> </ul> </p>	Web: Supports	Web:
<p><b><a href="#">3.3.3 Error Suggestion</a></b> (Level AA)  Also applies to:  Revised Section 508  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 501 (Web)(Software)</li> </ul> </p>	Web: Supports	Web:
<p><b><a href="#">3.3.4 Error Prevention (Legal, Financial, Data)</a></b> (Level AA)  Also applies to:  Revised Section 508</p>	Web: Supports	Web:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 501 (Web)(Software)</li> </ul>		

**Table 3: Success Criteria, Level AAA**

Notes:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
<p><b><a href="#">1.2.6 Sign Language (Prerecorded)</a></b> (Level AAA)  Revised Section 508 – Does not apply</p>	Web: Does not support	Web: Torus allows users to link prerecorded media via the web. Users must manually provide sign language interpreter.
<p><b><a href="#">1.2.7 Extended Audio Description (Prerecorded)</a></b> (Level AAA)  Revised Section 508 – Does not apply</p>	Web: Does not support	Web: Torus allows users to link prerecorded media via the web. Users must manually provide audio description.
<p><b><a href="#">1.2.8 Media Alternative (Prerecorded)</a></b> (Level AAA)</p>	Web: Does not support	Web: Torus allows users to link media on the web

Revised Section 508 – Does not apply		or add an attachment of a text equivalent.
<a href="#">1.2.9 Audio-only (Live)</a> (Level AAA) Revised Section 508 – Does not apply	Web: Not applicable	Web:
<a href="#">1.4.6 Contrast (Enhanced)</a> (Level AAA) Revised Section 508 – Does not apply	Web: Partially supports	Web:
<a href="#">1.4.7 Low or No Background Audio</a> (Level AAA) Revised Section 508 – Does not apply	Web: Not applicable	Web:
<a href="#">1.4.8 Visual Presentation</a> (Level AAA) Revised Section 508 – Does not apply	Web: Does not support	Web:
<a href="#">1.4.9 Images of Text (No Exception)</a> (Level AAA) Revised Section 508 – Does not apply	Web: Not applicable	Web:
<a href="#">2.1.3 Keyboard (No Exception)</a> (Level AAA) Revised Section 508 – Does not apply	Web: Supports	Web:
<a href="#">2.2.3 No Timing</a> (Level AAA) Revised Section 508 – Does not apply	Web: Supports	Web:
<a href="#">2.2.4 Interruptions</a> (Level AAA) Revised Section 508 – Does not apply	Web: Supports	Web:
<a href="#">2.2.5 Re-authenticating</a> (Level AAA) Revised Section 508 – Does not apply	Web: Supports	Web:

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Conformance Level</b>	<b>Remarks and Explanations</b>
<a href="#">2.3.2 Three Flashes</a> (Level AAA) Revised Section 508 – Does not apply	Web: Supports	Web:
<a href="#">2.4.8 Location</a> (Level AAA) Revised Section 508 – Does not apply	Web: Supports	Web:
<a href="#">2.4.9 Link Purpose (Link Only)</a> (Level AAA) Revised Section 508 – Does not apply	Web: Partially supports	Web:

<a href="#">2.4.10 Section Headings</a> (Level AAA) Revised Section 508 – Does not apply	Web: Supports	Web:
<a href="#">3.1.3 Unusual Words</a> (Level AAA) Revised Section 508 – Does not apply	Web: Does not support	Web:
<a href="#">3.1.4 Abbreviations</a> (Level AAA) Revised Section 508 – Does not apply	Web: Does not support	Web:
<a href="#">3.1.5 Reading Level</a> (Level AAA) Revised Section 508 – Does not apply	Web: Does not support	Web:
<a href="#">3.1.6 Pronunciation</a> (Level AAA) Revised Section 508 – Does not apply	Web: Does not support	Web:
<a href="#">3.2.5 Change on Request</a> (Level AAA) Revised Section 508 – Does not apply	Web: Does not support	Web:
<a href="#">3.3.5 Help</a> (Level AAA) Revised Section 508 – Does not apply	Web: Supports	Web:
<a href="#">3.3.6 Error Prevention (All)</a> (Level AAA) Revised Section 508 – Does not apply	Web: Partially supports	Web:

## Legal Disclaimer

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