SAGE Vantage Student Site
Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT® 2.3)

PRESENTED TO
SAGE Publishing

CONTACT
Lorna Notsch
Lorna.Notsch@sagepub.com

PREPARED BY
Tech for All, Inc.
www.TFAConsulting.com

August 2020
Updated February 2021
Updated March 2021
Rev 1.7

Table of Contents

Executive Summary: *SAGE Vantage Student Site VPAT® 2.3*

Tech for All's evaluation of SAGE Vantage Student Site identified accessibility features and functionalities of the platform. This evaluation provided the information required to assess the conformance of the SAGE Vantage Student Site with the Revised Section 508 Accessibility Standards. Tech for All concludes that the SAGE Vantage platform *Partially Supports* the Revised Section 508 Standards.

The Information Technology Industry Council (ITIC) has published recommended language to be used in completing VPAT® documents that has been designed to create simplicity and uniformity/consistency in VPAT®s presented by a variety of suppliers. In preparing the *SAGE Vantage* VPAT®, Tech for All has used the ITIC-recommended *VPAT® 2.3 WCAG* format, April 2019 version.

Based on this evaluation and on information published on the ITIC website (*http://www.itic.org*), Tech for All presents the VPAT® 2.3 WCAG document for SAGE Vantage Student Site on the following pages.

SAGE Vantage Student Site Accessibility Conformance Report

WCAG Edition

VPAT® Version 2.3 (Revised) – April 2019

Name of Product/Version: *SAGE Vantage Student Site*, accessed from https://vantage.sagepub.com

Product Description: Digital learning platform which blends content from SAGE textbooks with auto-graded assignments.

Report Date: August 30, 2019; updated April 2020; updated May 2020; updated December 2020; updated February 2021

Contact Information: Lorna Notsch, Lorna.Notsch@sagepub.com

Notes:

Evaluation Methods Used:

Conformance to the listed accessibility standards was evaluated from August 6–15, 2019, using a combination of static analysis tools and manual testing with assistive technologies.

The accessibility assessment was conducted according to the following steps:

I. A sighted accessibility expert conducted an overall technical analysis in order to identify issues of technical compliance that would affect mobility impaired, deaf/hearing impaired and low vision users. The evaluator inspected each page using Chrome with the Wave and axe tools. Code analysis was conducted using browser Developer Tools (Chrome or Firefox).

II. Keyboard accessibility analysis (for mobility and physically impaired users) was conducted by attempting to thoroughly navigate the web application through the keyboard, without using a mouse.

III. For deaf and hard of hearing users, any audio content was assessed for proper captioning.

IV. The accessibility for low vision users was evaluated three ways: (1) using the screen magnification, palette, and contrast controls provided by the operating systems; (2) using the font resizing and reflow capability offered by the browser, and (3) using Colour Contrast Analyser version 1.1.

V. The screen reader testing was conducted by an expert screen reader user. The goal was to identify accessibility barriers that are likely to be experienced by users who are blind. The evaluator worked through the web application using Windows 10 with both JAWS (v. 2019) and NVDA (v. 2019.1) screen readers with the Chrome (v. 75) browser.

VI. Any usability issues for users with disabilities encountered during the accessibility assessments in Steps I-V were noted for subsequent mention.

Applicable Standards/Guidelines

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

Standard/Guideline	Included In Report
Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0	Level A (Yes) Level AA (Yes) Level AAA (No)
Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1	Level A (Yes) Level AA (Yes) Level AAA (No)

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 2.1 Report

Note: When reporting on conformance with the WCAG 2.1 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
1.1.1 Non-text Content (Level A)	Partially Supports	The SAGE Vantage platform uses alt text and WAI-ARIA techniques to provide alternative text where necessary for users of assistive technology, with the following exceptions: • Multiple informative images, including those identifying links and buttons, defined through CSS • Multiple image buttons with identical labels • Multiple decorative images with redundant and identical alt text • Alt text for images in assessments may not be sufficient for completion of activity
1.2.1 Audio-only and Video-only (Prerecorded) (Level A)	N/A	The SAGE Vantage platform does not have any non-live audio-only or video-only content.
1.2.2 Captions (Prerecorded) (Level A)	Supports	All non-live, web-based video content in the SAGE Vantage platform has synchronized captions available.
1.2.3 Audio Description or Media Alternative (Prerecorded) (Level A)	Partially Supports	Some non-live, web-based video content in the SAGE Vantage platform which did not convey all audio content visually did not have descriptive text transcripts or an audio description track available.
1.3.1 Info and Relationships (Level A)	Partially Supports	The SAGE Vantage platform uses programmatic techniques to ensure that information, structure, and relationships conveyed through presentation can be programmatically determined or are available in text, with the following exceptions: • Multiple instances of form elements missing labels

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
		• Several instances of skipped heading levels or incorrect headings applied • Some missing list markup and incorrectly coded lists • Some form fields not enclosed in a fieldset
1.3.2 Meaningful Sequence (Level A)	Supports	The markup of the SAGE Vantage platform enables the reading and navigation order to be logical and intuitive for all users, with one exception: Updated 12/2020: Tooltip information now available to assistive technology
1.3.3 Sensory Characteristics (Level A)	Supports	Instructions in the SAGE Vantage platform do not rely on shape, size, visual location or sound.
1.4.1 Use of Color (Level A)	Partially Supports	Color is not used as the sole method of conveying content or distinguishing visual elements in the SAGE Vantage platform, with the following exceptions: • Color alone used to identify currently selected item • Color alone used to identify some link text from surrounding text
1.4.2 Audio Control (Level A)	Supports	All audio that automatically plays on any pages of the SAGE Vantage platform for more than five seconds has a mechanism available for the user to pause it.
2.1.1 Keyboard (Level A)	Partially Supports	All functionality within the SAGE Vantage platform is available to keyboard-only users using standard keyboard navigation and input functions, with the following exceptions: • Several instances of supplemental information only

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
		available on hover, such as tooltips • Notes/cite functionality on textbook content takes users to note/cite but does not return them to main content. • Users are unable to use a keyboard to access the unselected tab (My Courses/Profile) on the Courses page. Text for panel tabs is read as H2s and not as an interactive element. Updated 12/2020: Video transcripts are now accessible and navigable by keyboard. Course completed percentage and other progress hovers now available to keyboard users as well.
2.1.2 No Keyboard Trap (Level A)	Supports	Keyboard focus is never locked or trapped at any page element in the SAGE Vantage platform.
2.1.4 Character Key Shortcuts (Level A 2.1 only)	N/A	The SAGE Vantage platform does not use keyboard shortcuts.
2.2.1 Timing Adjustable (Level A)	Supports	Users are notified when they are going to be logged out for inactivity and given the opportunity to continue.
2.2.2 Pause, Stop, Hide (Level A)	Supports	There is no automatically moving content that lasts longer than five seconds without a mechanism to pause, stop or hide it in the SAGE Vantage platform.
2.3.1 Three Flashes or Below Threshold (Level A)	Partially Supports	It is possible that, given the extent of multimedia content on the SAGE Vantage site, there is content noncompliant with this criterion.
2.4.1 Bypass Blocks (Level A)	Supports	The SAGE Vantage platform provides a method to skip repeated navigation elements on every page.
2.4.2 Page Titled (Level A)	Supports	The pages in the SAGE Vantage platform have descriptive and informative titles.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
2.4.3 Focus Order (Level A)	Supports	The navigation order of links, form elements and other interactive elements in the SAGE Vantage platform is logical and intuitive.
2.4.4 Link Purpose (In Context) (Level A)	Partially Supports	The purpose of the links in the SAGE Vantage platform is adequately identified with the following exceptions: • Some image links were defined through CSS and therefore had no accessible link text available. • One page had links with the same link text that went to different locations. Updated 02/25/21: Footer elements now are shown and read as links, distinguished from surrounding text.
2.5.1 Pointer Gestures (Level A 2.1 only)	Supports	All functionality in the SAGE Vantage platform that uses multipoint or path-based gestures for operation can be operated with a single pointer without a path-based gesture, unless a multipoint or path-based gesture is essential.
2.5.2 Pointer Cancellation (Level A 2.1 only)	Supports	There were no issues with pointer cancellation found in the SAGE Vantage platform.
2.5.3 Label in Name (Level A 2.1 only)	Partially Supports	All accessible names for user interface components contained the visible text of the component, with the following exception: • For the Previous/Next navigation in the right nav of content pages, the ARIA messaging "Go to Previous/Next" do not reflect the visual text of the < > arrows and the name of the respective section.
2.5.4 Motion Actuation (Level A 2.1 only)	N/A	There is no functionality requiring device motion in the SAGE Vantage platform.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
3.1.1 Language of Page (Level A)	Supports	The language of the webpages within the SAGE Vantage platform is accurately identified using the HTML 'lang' attribute.
3.2.1 On Focus (Level A)	Supports	When focus changes in the SAGE Vantage platform, this does not ever cause a change in page content, spawn a new browser window, or cause any other change that disorients the user.
3.2.2 On Input (Level A)	Partially Supports	When a user inputs information or interacts with a form control in the SAGE Vantage platform, this does not result in a substantial change in the page content that could disorient the user, with the following exceptions: • Two instances of focus moving inappropriately to the top of the page after uses interacts with a control • Two select dropdowns which update page content on input
3.3.1 Error Identification (Level A)	Partially Supports	All required form elements or form elements that require a specific format, value or length are accurately identified in the SAGE Vantage platform, with two exceptions: • For the Reading Activities, there is no error messaging if the minimum word count is not met. The user is unable to submit their response and may not know why. • For the Critical Thinking Checks, the error message does not receive screen reader focus and only tell the AT user that the answer is too short.
3.3.2 Labels or Instructions (Level A)	Partially Supports	Required interactive elements in the SAGE Vantage platform have sufficient labels, cues and instructions, with the following exception: • Multiple instances of form elements missing labels

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
		- For the Reading Activities and Critical Thinking Checks, the word minimum information is provided after the editable field, so some AT users may not be aware of this requirement. - For the Previous/Next navigation in the right nav of content pages, the ARIA messaging "Go to Previous/Next" do not reflect the visual text of the <> arrows and the name of the respective section.
4.1.1 Parsing (Level A)	Supports	The SAGE Vantage platform has no errors in HTML validation.
4.1.2 Name, Role, Value (Level A)	Partially Supports	Markup in the SAGE Vantage platform facilitates accessibility, with the following exceptions: - One iframe missing title attribute - Multiple instances of ARIA roles not being used correctly - Screen reader focus is not trapped in the table of contents modal available throughout the platform Updated 12/2020: Course numbers and course percentage completed now available to assistive technology, and poll behavior as been updated to be more friendly to assistive technology. Chapter tests are now accessible to assistive technology. Updated 02/2021: The functionality associated with "Open Table of Contents" button is now clear for screen reader users. Updated 02/2021: Screen reader focus is now trapped in TOC.

Table 2: Success Criteria, Level AA

Notes:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.2.4 Captions (Live) (Level AA)	N/A	There is no live multimedia content in the SAGE Vantage platform.
1.2.5 Audio Description (Prerecorded) (Level AA)	Does not Support	Non-live, web-based video content in the SAGE Vantage platform which does not convey all content visually does not have audio description available.
1.3.4 Orientation (Level AA 2.1 only)	Supports	Orientation of web content is not restricted to only portrait or landscape.
1.3.5 Identify Input Purpose (Level AA 2.1 only)	Supports	Input fields collecting personal information have an appropriate autocomplete attribute identified.
1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum) (Level AA)	Partially Supports	Text and text within images in the SAGE Vantage platform have a contrast ratio of at least 4.5:1 for normal text and 3:1 for large text, with one exception: • Multiple instances of one text / background color combination with insufficient contrast
1.4.4 Resize text (Level AA)	Supports	The content within the SAGE Vantage platform is readable and functional when the page size is doubled.
1.4.5 Images of Text (Level AA)	Supports	There are no images of text in the SAGE Vantage platform.
1.4.10 Reflow (Level AA 2.1 only)	Supports	The content within the SAGE Vantage platform is readable and functional and horizontal scrolling is avoided at a screen width of 320 pixels.
1.4.11 Non-text Contrast (Level AA 2.1 only)	Partially Supports	Sufficient contrast has been used to differentiate graphical objects and author customized interactive components, with the following exceptions: • Multiple instances of graphical objects with insufficient contrast • Multiple instances of author-customized interface components with insufficient contrast

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
		• Multiple instances of author-customized focus indicators with insufficient contrast
1.4.12 Text Spacing (Level AA 2.1 only)	Supports	No loss of content or functionality occurs when users adjust spacing as per the requirements of this guideline.
1.4.13 Content on Hover or Focus (Level AA 2.1 only)	Supports	All content in the SAGE Vantage platform that becomes available on pointer hover or keyboard focus can be dismissed or accessed correctly, as required by this guideline.
2.4.5 Multiple Ways (Level AA)	Supports	The SAGE Vantage platform provides multiple ways to find other web pages on the site.
2.4.6 Headings and Labels (Level AA)	Partially Supports	The pages in the SAGE Vantage platform are identified uniquely and interactive elements have informative labels, with the following exceptions: • Multiple image buttons with identical labels • Several instances of buttons with identical label text
2.4.7 Focus Visible (Level AA)	Supports	The SAGE Vantage platform has a visible focus indicator on all interactive elements.
3.1.2 Language of Parts (Level AA)	Supports	The content in the SAGE Vantage platform is only delivered in one language.
3.2.3 Consistent Navigation (Level AA)	Supports	The navigation of the SAGE Vantage platform is in the same relative order to the main content across all pages of the websites.
3.2.4 Consistent Identification (Level AA)	Supports	Components that have the same function across multiple pages of the SAGE Vantage platform are labeled consistently.
3.3.3 Error Suggestion (Level AA)	Partially Supports	The SAGE Vantage platform provides timely and accessible error suggestions when input errors are identified. The exceptions are:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
		- For the Reading Activities, there is no error messaging if the minimum word count is not met. The user is unable to submit their response and may not know why. - For the Critical Thinking Checks, the error message does not receive screen reader focus and only tell the AT user that the answer is too short.
3.3.4 Error Prevention (Legal, Financial, Data) (Level AA)	Supports	The SAGE Vantage platform provides a way to reverse, verify, or confirm test data collected.
4.1.3 Status Messages (Level AA 2.1 only)	Partially Supports	If an important status message is presented on the SAGE Vantage platform, assistive technology users are made aware of it, with the following exceptions: - When 'Loading' messages are displayed throughout the platform, they are not made available to assistive technology - When AT users are taken to a new page or taken outside of Vantage, they are not made aware of update. Updated March 2021: Loading messages now available to assistive technology.

Legal Disclaimer (Company)

SAGE Publications Online and Print Accessibility Policy: Facilitating Access

It is part of SAGE's vision and overall mission to disseminate teaching and research materials on a global scale, by combining quality and innovation and by actively responding to the needs of our customers. So, whenever possible, SAGE endeavors to make the process of obtaining accessible content simple. SAGE is committed to providing an equal opportunity for all to benefit from our products, and strives to reduce the barriers to delivering educational content on a timely basis to all customers. SAGE routinely assesses and schedules iterative enhancements to improve the accessibility of our online platforms. We are working on numerous projects to enhance both content and platform accessibility and to make accessibility a focal point of new workflows and product development.