Accessible by Design Online Learning / Web Accessibility

Lesson Overview:

1. Definition
2. Principles
3. Implementation
4. Case Study
5. Next Steps

WEB ACCESSIBILITY →

Definition

WEB ACCESSIBILITY

01

Web Accessibility (A11Y)

"... means that websites, tools, and technologies are designed and developed so that people with disabilities can use them."

— W3C Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI)

VISUAL

Blindness, Low Vision, Color Blindness (Color Vision Deficiency)

MOTOR (PHYSICAL)

Limited Fine Motor Control, Paralysis or Amputation, Tremors or Muscle Weakness

SPEECH

Mute or Non-Verbal Communication Needs, Speech Impairments

AUDITORY

Deafness, Hard of Hearing, Sensitivity to Sound

COGNITIVE / LEARNING

Dyslexia, Dyscalculia, Attention Deficit Disorders (e.g., ADHD), Memory or Processing Disorders, Autism Spectrum

CONTINUED →

Web Accessibility (A11Y)

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NEUROLOGICAL

Epilepsy (Photosensitivity), Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's, or ALS

TECHNOLOGICAL

Slow internet, old devices, or use of keyboard-only input

SITUATIONAL

Broken arm, eye surgery recovery, loud environment, poor lighting

Principles

WEB ACCESSIBILITY

02

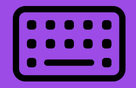
Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG)

"... explain how to make web content more accessible to people with disabilities."

— W3C WCAG 2.1 Overview

P – PERCEIVABLE

Content must be presented in ways users can perceive (e.g., alt text, captions).



O – OPERABLE

Interface must be usable via keyboard and other assistive tech.

U – UNDERSTANDABLE

Information and operations must be clear and predictable.

R – ROBUST

Content must be compatible with current and future tech.

Implementation

WEB ACCESSIBILITY

03

HOW TO APPLY

- Use semantic HTML (headings, lists, alt text)
- Ensure sufficient color contrast and readable text sizes
- Add captions and transcripts to videos
- Test keyboard navigation and screen reader compatibility
- Choose an Learning Management System (LMS) or platform with accessibility features

IMPACT ON LEARNERS

- Enables access for learners using assistive tech
- Reduces barriers for those with vision, hearing, or motor disabilities
- Creates a more consistent and user-friendly experience for everyone

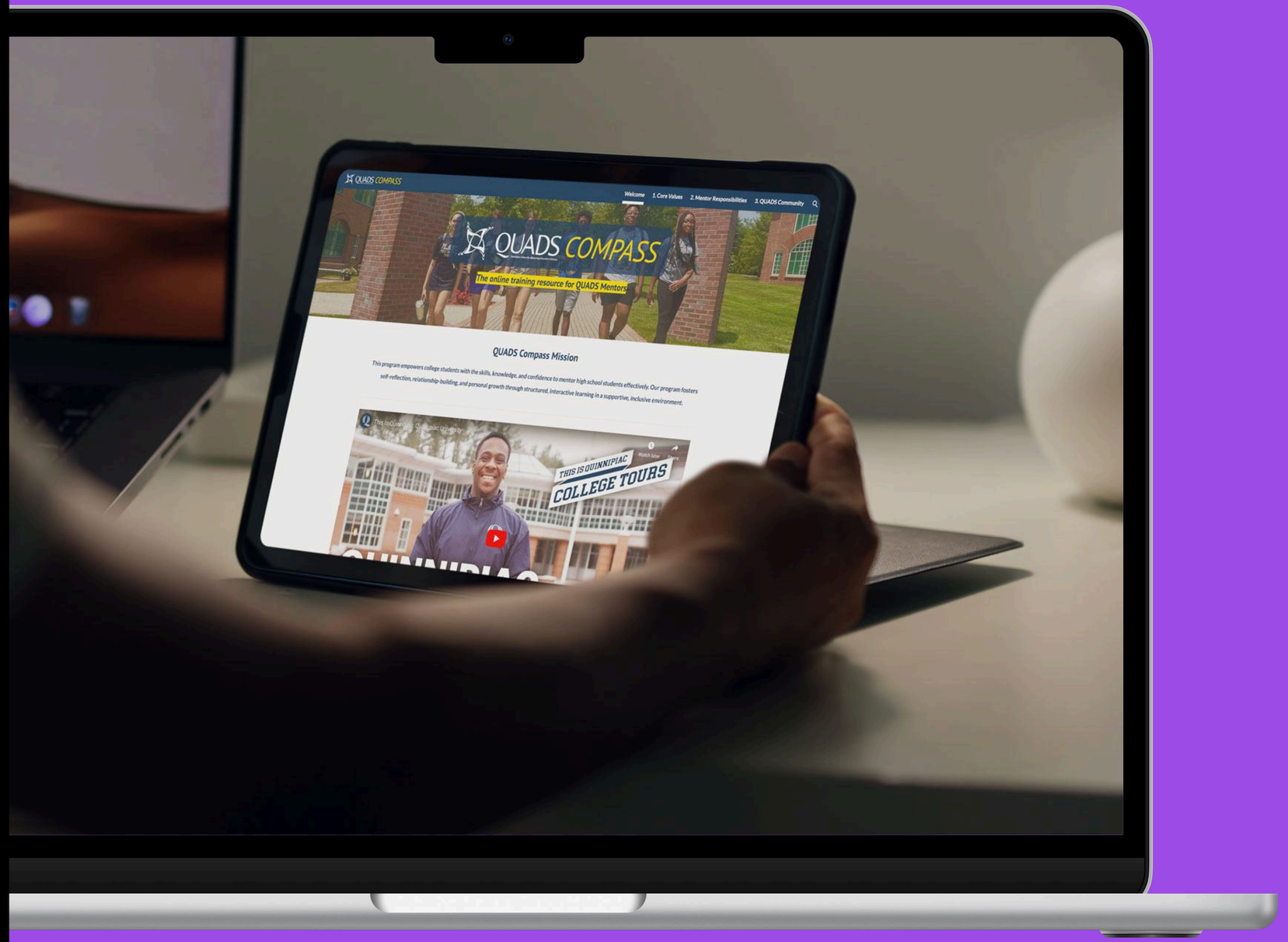
ROI / BUSINESS CASE

- Reduces legal risk (ADA, Section 508 compliance)
- Future-proofs your course for new technologies
- Strengthens brand trust and institutional credibility

Case Study

WEB ACCESSIBILITY

04



Quinnipiac Mentor Onboarding Website

VIEW CASE STUDY →

ACCESSIBILITY PLANS

- Structured pages using proper headings and clean HTML
- Included PDFs with readable formatting and proper tags
- Tested content using WAVE browser extension and keyboard navigation
- Applied appropriate alt text, contrast checks, and ARIA labels
- Created a content creation checklist to keep future updates accessible

Next Steps

WEB ACCESSIBILITY

05

What's one potential accessibility barrier in your course content?

How could removing this barrier benefit the specific learners you've been considering?