



## FY19 ICT ACCESSIBILITY SPOTLIGHT

Our students come first... [About Mason](#)

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### Assistive Technology Initiative

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# ABOUT THE ATI

## Who We Are

The ATI, a unit of the Compliance, Diversity, and Ethics Office (CDE), is committed to ensuring equivalent access to all information and communications technology (ICT) resources on our campuses. We provide direct assistive technology assessments, training, and support services to individuals with disabilities in the Mason community who require immediate ICT solutions. We also work closely with our campus strategic partners to develop and implement a comprehensive ICT accessibility plan. Visit the ATI website (<http://ati.gmu.edu>) for more information.

## What We Do

The ATI ensures equivalent access to ICT resources for students, faculty, staff, and visitors with disabilities and/or different learning styles in the Mason community. This includes supports for video captioning/transcription, alternative formats for textbooks and assessments, tactile graphics, web accessibility, document remediation, and assistive technology supports/services. We work collaboratively with Disability Services (DS), Information Technology Services (ITS), Office of Digital Learning (ODL), academic and administrative departments/units, instructional faculty, University Counsel, as well as library personnel to develop, coordinate, and implement a university-wide ICT accessibility plan that ensures conformity with the technical standards outlined in Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. This includes training and technical assistance regarding the appropriate use of assistive technology, web compliance, document/media accessibility, procurement, and software applications testing. Additionally, we coordinate directly with the DS and the ADA Coordinator to address the technology accommodation needs of students, staff, and faculty with disabilities.

# FY19 HIGHLIGHTS

The ATI's service and support highlights over the 2019 fiscal year are as follows:

- More than 1,300 students, staff, and faculty received support through the ATI office.
- What the FY19 numbers show:
  - **35% increase** in the number of AT assessments, support, and trainings provided.
  - **166% increase** in the number of alternate formats provided (i.e., textbooks, tests/quizzes, and tactile graphics).
  - **108% increase** in the number of video requests processed for captions, transcripts, and audio descriptions.
  - Post FY18 document accessibility pilot, **42% increase** in number of Word, PowerPoint, and PDF documents remediated
- ATI staff presented at 8 local, regional, and/or national conferences on ICT accessibility-related issues.

ATI staff developed strategies to quickly create tactile graphics for blind/low vision students enrolled in STEM courses. These efforts resulted in quicker turnaround times for students actively taking courses and a significant costs savings for DS.

- ATI staff negotiated and implemented statewide post-production captioning and transcription contracts with three vendors: *Cielo24*, *Verbit.ai*, and *3Play Media*.

- **ATI collaborated with DS to implement the Clockworks client management database.** This solution has streamlined the sharing of student case notes with DS staff and AT equipment inventory and loan tracking.
- In cooperation with the ODL, ATI staff **developed guidelines for the identification of web resources that require review before implementation in an online course.**
- **21 different higher education institutions reached out to ATI staff for assistance with ICT accessibility issues (i.e., ICT accessibility policies, captioning/transcription procedures, web accessibility testing, purchasing and procurement, etc.).**

# FY19 BY THE NUMBERS

## 128

Students provided with alternate formats

## 807

Alternative format jobs (i.e., textbooks, quizzes, and tests)



## 2,902

Captioning, transcription, and/or audio description jobs

## 143

Faculty/Staff provided with captions, transcripts, and/or audio descriptions

## 10,160

Pages processed

## 702

Documents remediated

## 59

Faculty/Staff provided with remediated documents



## FY19 BY THE NUMBERS CONT.



# 124

AT assessments, support, and trainings provided for students, staff, faculty, and visitors with disabilities

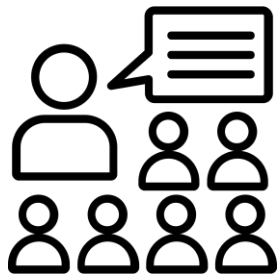
# 408

Websites and web-based software applications tested for accessibility



# 63

ICT accessibility trainings provided (F2F & Online)



# 852

Individuals trained on ICT accessibility

# FY20-FY22 GOALS

The *ATI's FY20-FY22 Strategic Plan* details the office's goals over the next 2-3 years. We will focus on the following areas:

- **Communications and Marketing**
  - Improve campus-wide marketing and communications
  - Update ATI's web-based resources (i.e., [accessibility.gmu.edu](http://accessibility.gmu.edu), [ati.gmu.edu](http://ati.gmu.edu))
- **Web Accessibility**
  - Integrate feedback from assistive technology users into the web and applications testing process
  - Acquire space for development of web accessibility and assistive technology testing lab
- **Document Accessibility**
  - Improve scalability of document remediation service
- **Alternate Formats**
  - Procure technology that would aid in creation of 3D-printed tactile graphics
- **Purchasing and Procurement**
  - Develop public database/resource for tracking web and applications testing results
- **Library Accessibility**
  - Work with library staff to develop clear guidelines for access to library programs and services



# CONTACT US

For more information about Mason's ICT accessibility policy, strategic plan, and ATI services, visit the ATI website (<http://ati.gmu.edu>).

