



Using Code To Meet WCAG



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Introduction:

Last summer, I worked as an Information Systems Engineer Intern at the Association of American Medical Colleges in Washington D.C. The main tasks I was given were to update the HTML, CSS, and JavaScript code of the company's web applications to meet web content accessibility guidelines (WCAG).

Activities:

On the job, I used HTML, CSS, and AngularJS (JavaScript framework) to help the website meet WCAG. In addition, I was also mentored on how a company runs their applications. For example, I learned the structure of how the backend of an application communicates with the front-end through HTTP requests. Also, I looked through the company's Java POM files and documented the web application's dependencies in the company wiki.



Image from Sonix

(<https://sonix.ai/resources/wcag-compliance/>)

Impact:

The work I did will help people who have disabilities register for the MCAT with less trouble. For example, some of the work I did was make images describable for a text-to-voice reader. With this addition, visually impaired people will know exactly what is on the website they are on.

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
  <head>
    <title>Wikitechy-alt attribute</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    
  </body>
</html>
```

Image from Wikitechy

(<https://www.wikitechy.com/step-by-step-html-tutorials/attributes/alt-attribute-in-html>)

Site Information:

Name of Site: Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)

Address: 655 K St NW Suite 100, Washington, DC 20001

Your supervisor: Sue Zhang

The site mission: AAMC focuses on transforming health care in four primary mission areas: medical education, patient care, medical research, and diversity, inclusion, and equity in health care

The particular goals of the site you were at: Work with the business team to find areas in which the site can be improved to meet WCAG guidelines; update the code for the websites accordingly.

Future Work

WCAG are always being updated and improved to make web pages more accessible to anyone with disabilities. In the future, it is likely that web developers will need to update their code to fit the standards of the updated WCAG. Outside of WCAG, I plan to expand my repertoire within computer science, such as learning new programming languages and applications of programming.

Issues Confronting Site:

Prior to this internship, I had no front-end web development experience, other than my SGC portfolio. In addition, I had trouble finding my way in the beginning, as this was my first internship, and I did not know how to work in a corporate job.



Image from Computer Science Degree Hub

(<https://www.computersciencedegreehub.com/faq/what-is-coding/>)



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