

Effective Use of Color

There are two accessibility issues related to choice of color when used on digital or printed media:

Avoid Using Color to Communicate Information

Some users are unable to perceive color differences, or may not perceive color the same way you do. Therefore it is important to avoid using color alone to communicate information. For example, if link text is blue, it should also be underlined so users who are unable to perceive color differences can distinguish links from surrounding text.

Choose Colors with Ample Contrast

Some users have difficulty perceiving text if there is too little contrast between foreground and background. The W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 require that color combinations meet clearly defined contrast ratios. In order to meet the guidelines at Level AA, text or images of text must have a contrast ratio of at least 4.5:1 (or 3:1 for large text). In order to meet the guidelines at the stricter Level AAA, the contrast ratio must be at least 7:1 (or 4.5:1 for large text).

Several free tools have been developed that make it easy to check color combinations for WCAG 2.0 compliance. The following are a few examples:

Color Contrast Analyzer

(for Windows or Mac)

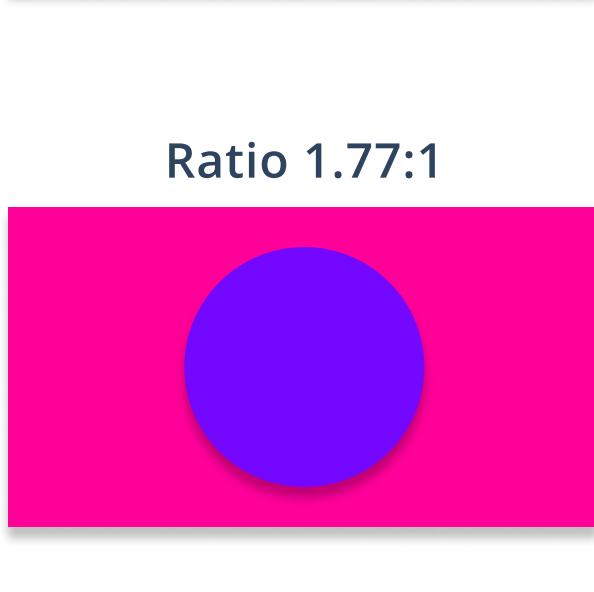
<https://developer.paciellogroup.com/resources/contrastanalyser/>

WebAIM Color Contrast Checker

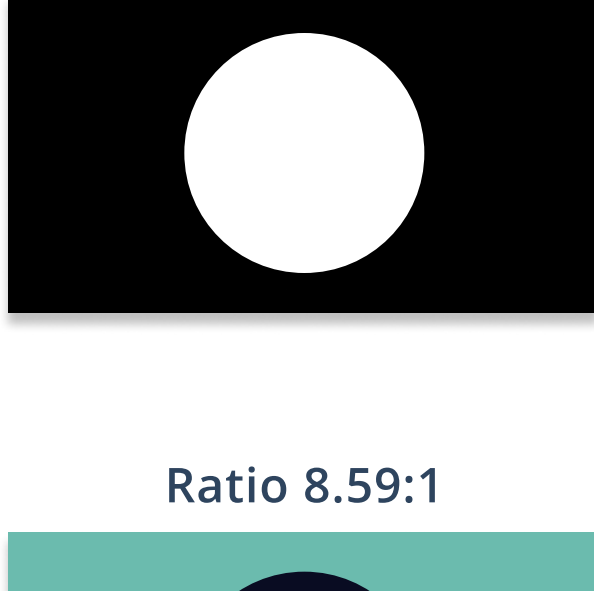
<https://webaim.org/resources/contrastchecker/>

Examples

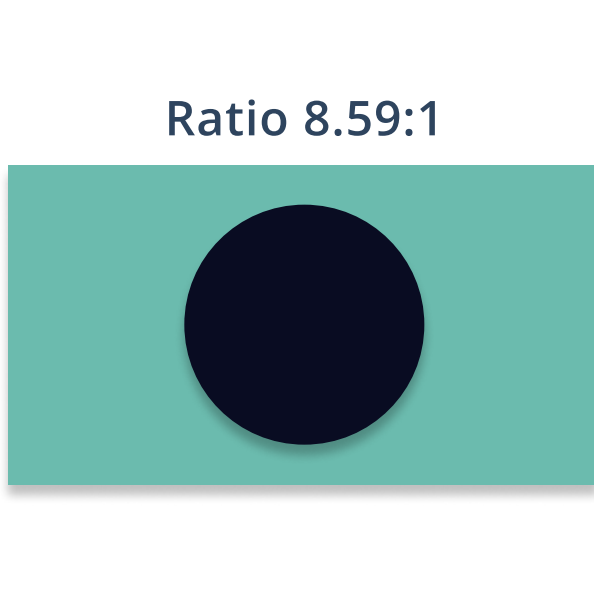
Ratio 2.16:1



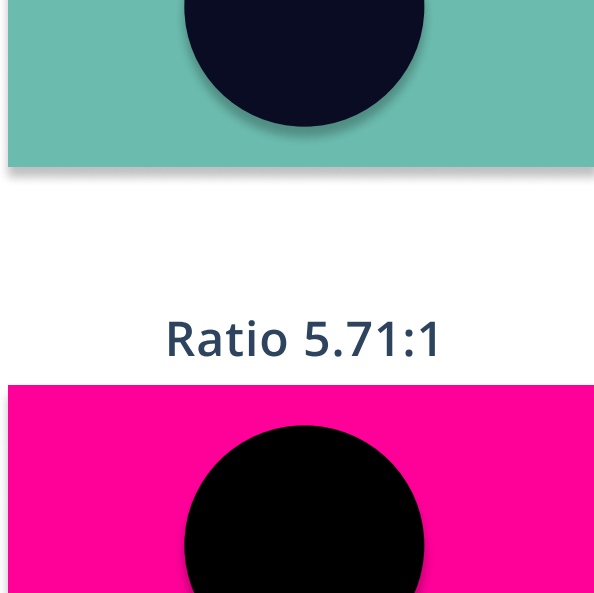
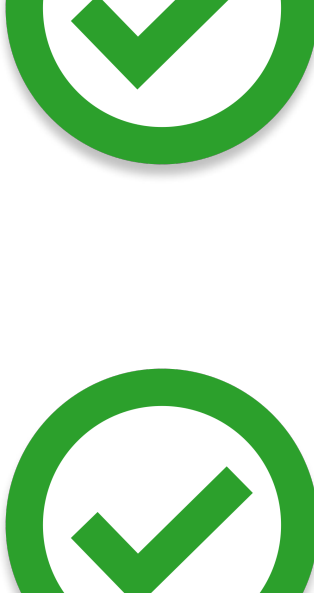
Ratio 1.27:1



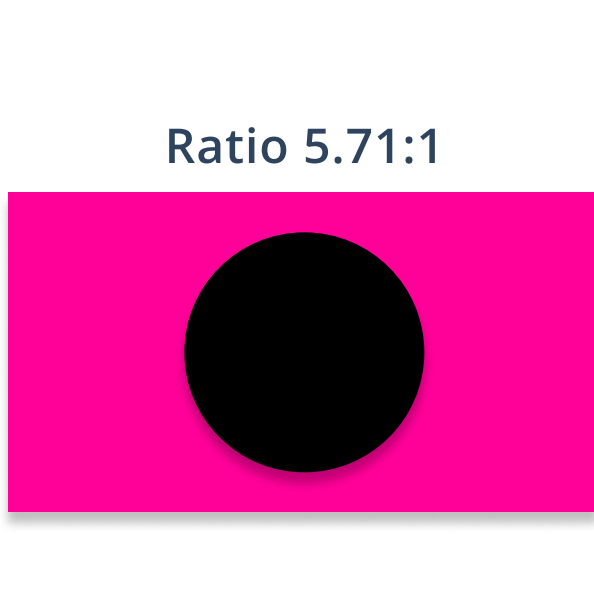
Ratio 1.77:1



Ratio 21:1



Ratio 8.59:1



Ratio 5.71:1



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Office Hours

Monday to Thursday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Friday: 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

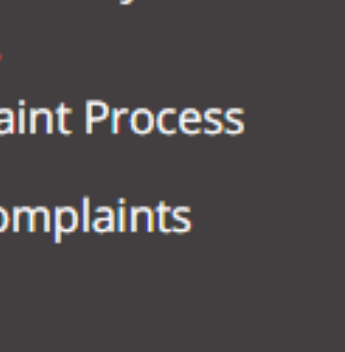
Drop In hours

are designed for students with approved accommodations. Students can show up or call for approximately 10-15 minutes of support regarding their accommodations and/or other general academic concerns. No appointments needed.

Winter 2020 Drop In Hours: Tues. 11a.m.-12 noon and Wed. 2-3 p.m.

Check In appointments

are generally 30 minutes and available if students need a longer time than the drop-in time to discuss accommodation issues and/or academic goals. Please contact the office to schedule.



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