

Center for Teaching, Learning and Design

Downloading and Using Colour Contrast Checker - Chrome

To completely assess online content for accessibility, you need to consider color contrasts of text and background colors. There should also be clear contrasts between different sections of a website. This guide will explain how to download and use the Colour Contrast Checker extension for Google Chrome.

Download:

- 1. Go to the Google Store
- 2. Search for 'Colour Contrast Checker'
 - a. Note: be sure to use the British spelling to download the correct extension.



3. *Click* Add to Chrome (blue button to the right of the screen).

Using the Contrast Checker:

1. *Click* the yellow button in the upper right-hand corner of your browser; this will open a half window where you can complete the following steps.



- 2. *Click* the **Eyedropper Icon** under 'Background Colour'; a circle will appear on the screen.
- 3. *Position* the red square over a pixel containing the background color.
- 4. *Click* to select the color.
- 5. *Repeat* **Step 3** using the text/foreground color.

Understanding the Results:

- 1. On the left-hand side of the extension window there will be a number; this represents the contrast ratio to 1.
 - a. Black on white is 21:1; white on white is 1:1.
 - b. The ratio does not change if the colors are inversed.
- 2. Below the number are four boxes; these represent the different standards and if the contrast meets those standards.
- 3. AA is the standard used by the ADA; the minimum contrast for this standard is 4.5:1
- 4. AAA is a more rigorous standard used in other parts of the world; the minimum AAA contrast is 7:1

Additional Resources:

- 1. For more information on accessible colors, reference the Color Contrast Guidelines.
- 2. Contact the Instructional Accessibility Group at <u>Instructional.Accessibility@msudenver.edu</u>