

TEACHING TUESDAYS



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BELLISARIO BULLETIN



– By [Juliet Pinto](#)

Welcome to the first *Teaching Tuesdays* newsletter of the Fall 2025 semester! And welcome to our new full-time faculty: Whitney Chirdon and Simon Licen (Journalism), Gustavo Rosa and Marni Zelnick (Film Production), and our newest Professionals in Residence, Peter Bhatia and Josh Fine (Journalism). Let's help them feel at home in the Bellisario College.

In this issue of *Teaching Tuesdays*, we talk about accreditation, and Danielle Harris discusses the role of web accessibility liaison for the College that she and Steve Sampsell hold. The Teaching Tuesdays in Real Life Committee will be meeting to plan upcoming events, so please stay tuned for those announcements. Have a great first week!

Important Items of Note

- **Labor Day Holiday** | September 1 | No classes!
- **Bellisario College Faculty Think In** | September 12 | 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. | Reception immediately to follow in the Hintz Alumni Center.

Careers/Internships

- **September 2** | 5:30-6:30 p.m. | 262 Willard Building | Internship Information Session
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Upcoming Events

- **August 28** | 10:35 - 11:50 a.m. | [How to Plan a Class Session](#) | With special attention to the alignment of learning objectives, assessments, and learning activities.
- **August 28** | 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. | [PDF Repairs \(Adobe Acrobat and Equidox\)](#) | review different tools for tagging, optical character recognition (OCR) and conversion to another document type.
- **September 12** | 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. | Bellisario College Faculty Think In | Reception immediately to follow in the Hintz Alumni Center.

TEACHING TIP



Accreditation: Curriculum and Instruction

[Juliet Pinto](#) | Bellisario College Associate Dean & Professor

You probably know that the College will be undergoing reaccreditation review this semester. A site team from the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications will visit us Nov. 2-5, and we will be evaluated on [eight standards](#),

including standard 2, Curriculum and Instruction. In an upcoming newsletter, two of our faculty who have served as site team members and final report co-authors, Holly Overton and Dave Wozniak offer insights, best practices and suggestions for the site team visit to help connect the goals of accreditation to our curriculum and teaching. At the Faculty Think In, Peter Bhatia will share his experience as a past president and current member of the ACEJMC Accrediting Committee.

We also welcome Tara Wycoff as the College's first Director of Curriculum and Assessment, working with department heads and department curriculum coordinators to assess our curriculum and ensure it is current with industry standards.

Many thanks to all who have been working on the College's 2018-2025 self-study, which will be made available before the site team visit.

CANVAS CUE



Web Accessibility Compliance Efforts

Bellisario College Liaisons

– [Danielle Harris](#) | Instructional Design

The Department of Justice (DOJ) issued updated Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidance for web, app, and content accessibility that affects all public entities, including Penn State as a higher education institution, as reflected in [this high-level summary](#).

What does this mean for the Bellisario College?

Starting now, the College will begin assessing our compliance with the new guidance, with an initial focus on ensuring the following types of content meet accessibility requirements:

- Website text, images, sounds, videos, controls, and animations.
- Electronic documents, including PDFs, presentation files, and spreadsheets.
- Apps designed to run on mobile devices.

The DOJ has given us a **deadline of April 24, 2026**, for all new digital content and online resources to be accessible.

The good news is we have the expertise to help: [Penn State IT's Accessibility Team](#) and our own web accessibility liaisons, [Danielle Harris](#) and [Steve Sampsell](#).

Where will we see initial efforts?

- Developing compliance plans.
- Establishing workflows and resources to make new content accessible.
- Triaging existing content to address noncompliance issues.

[Ongoing training](#) is available to help familiarize everyone with the requirements, along with resources and steps to get started.

High-enrollment courses will be addressed first. If you teach one of these courses, you will likely hear from a web accessibility liaison this semester. Between you, the [Accessibility Team](#), and your web accessibility liaisons ([Danielle Harris](#) and [Steve Sampsell](#)), we are well-positioned to meet the compliance deadline!

SHARE A TEACHING STRATEGY



Share the phenomenal things that you have been doing in your classroom! Do you have a teaching technology or strategy that you've seen succeed and would like to share in the *Teaching Tuesdays* newsletter? If so, please [share your idea](#) for an upcoming issue.