# Use of Color

Because visually-impaired and colorblind students can’t determine colors at all or certain color combinations, you’ll need to examine your materials for how you use color.

## Color to Convey Information

Ideally, you do not use color or emphasis (such as bold, underlining, or italics) to convey important course information (e.g., assignments in bold red text are due on Wednesdays). Screen readers to not read the color of text, nor do they acknowledge if you have electronically highlighted text. If you plan to use color to convey important information, make sure that you have an alternative way to share this information with students who may not be able to see it. For example, have a schedule with due dates rather than a color coded schedule.

## Color Contrast

As was mentioned in the Blackboard tutorial, make sure you use color combinations that are easy for everyone to read.

The buttons in the picture below from Blackboard are an example of coloring that might be hard to read. The patterns can make it hard for any student to read the text.

Picture of several patterned Blackboard menu button options that can be difficult to read. 

The buttons in the picture below from blackboard are an example of easy-to-read button styles. The “striped” buttons with a light background would be good to use with black text to be readable for a wide audience.

Picture of several striped corner Blackboard menu button options that can be easier to read.