

UX & Accessibility Rubric

CRITERION	1	2	3	4	5
Keyboard navigation	No focus styles, tab order broken, custom widgets not operable	Some focus rings but skip links missing, modals trap focus	Logical tab order, skip-to-content link, focus trapped in modals	Arrow-key navigation in menus, roving tabindex, focus restoration	Full keyboard parity with mouse, screen-reader tested, CI a11y checks
Semantic HTML	Div soup, no landmarks, headings out of order, no ARIA	Some semantic tags but inconsistent, missing alt text on images	Landmarks, heading hierarchy, alt text, form labels present	ARIA roles on custom widgets, live regions for dynamic content	WAI-ARIA authoring practices followed, automated a11y tests in CI
Visual accessibility	Low contrast text, color-only indicators, no reduced-motion support	Some contrast fixes but fails WCAG AA in spots, small touch targets	WCAG AA contrast, 44px touch targets, prefers-reduced-motion respected	WCAG AAA contrast on key content, scalable to 200% zoom, dark mode	Tested with screen magnifiers, high-contrast mode, no info lost at 400% zoom
Loading & error states	Blank screens while loading, infinite spinners, errors vanish silently	Generic spinner, error alert with 'Something went wrong'	Skeleton screens, contextual error messages, retry buttons	Progressive loading, optimistic UI, errors scoped to the failing section	Streaming SSR, graceful degradation, offline-ready with service worker