



## COLLEGE of ENGINEERING AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

# MSc Seminar

**Wednesday September 20, 2023 at 11AM in Reynolds 1103**

**Ryan Paul**

Empowering Software Professionals: Exploring Large Language Models to Enhance Web Accessibility Education and Awareness

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**Advisory:** Dr. Andrew Hamilton-Wright

### **Abstract:**

Web accessibility has evolved significantly over the years and is now a crucial component of every organization's initiative. New accessibility standards, government policies, and legislation have emerged to ensure web applications are accessible to as many people as possible. However, despite the availability of abundant resources, standards, guidelines, and accessibility tools, along with increased education and training in this field, software professionals still face challenges with basic accessibility awareness and knowledge. Regrettably, a substantial amount of web content remains highly inaccessible to people with disabilities today.

This research aims to investigate how Large Language Models (LLMs) can effectively address software professionals' education and awareness of web accessibility. LLMs have demonstrated their value in delivering personalized and context specific responses, fostering more open and constructive discussions that can be vital in teaching and promoting web accessibility. To assess the effectiveness of LLMs as educational and awareness-building tools, this research will begin by examining the current beliefs and perspectives of software professionals regarding LLMs and their role in supporting web accessibility. These insights will, in turn, serve as the foundation for the design of more integrated and accessibility-focused solutions using LLMs.