

The Blackboard logo is displayed in white text on a green rectangular background.

Blackboard Ally: Companion Services

Making digital course content more accessible

For academic institutions, ensuring that their courses are accessible to all students has become both a legal and a moral imperative. Because of this, institutions are increasingly designing their e-learning courses with inclusivity in mind. Yet the process of creating courses that support the varying learning styles and abilities that students bring to the classroom can be challenging. Blackboard offers technology and services that enable institutions to overcome the challenges that delivering accessible course content presents.

Blackboard Ally is a new technology that helps institutions gain greater insight into the accessibility of their digital course content; offers guidance to teachers on how to improve the quality of their content for all students; and provides students of all abilities with immediate access to content in formats that may be more suited to their specific needs.

To help ensure that institutions make the most of their Ally implementation, Blackboard has created two companion services.

Blackboard



With the goal performance dashboard—in addition to badging, standards and goal alignment, Portfolios, and other capabilities—Learn has the workflows and data capabilities needed to support competency-based programs.



INSTITUTIONAL READINESS: Building a Solid Foundation for Accessible eLearning

Institutional Readiness is a discovery service designed to analyse and report on an institution's readiness for an institutional-wide deployment of accessible course and learning designs. The assessment encompasses strategic, technical and cultural readiness, including policy, processes, systems and people. In a two-day onsite engagement, Blackboard consultants review the institution's:

- Accessibility requirements
- Existing policies and process
- Internal capacity and capabilities to make effective use of Blackboard Ally to create accessible course designs

Outcome: a report and recommendations for improving institutional readiness for the deployment at scale of accessible course and learning designs, as well as recommendations for a high-level improvement workflow for creating accessible e-learning courses and materials.

Result: an institution is equipped to move from pockets of good practice to large scale adoption.

TRAINING: Creating Awareness and Understanding of Accessibility and Accessible Content

Designed to provide academics, educational technologists, librarians and other supporting teams with a general overview on how to design and develop accessible digital course content and how to use Ally to improve its accessibility. This training increases awareness on the importance of creating accessible content, and provides participants with the skills and tools they need to test and improve the accessibility of their courses.

Training covers:



An overview of what accessibility entails



Information on global accessibility standards



Guidance on how to develop accessible content

Training can be conducted remotely or onsite.

Custom training is also available.

blackboard.com/accessibility

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