

Ally: The Blackboard Tool That's More Useful Than Ever

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Have you added an **Ally** in your Blackboard course(s)? With Universal Design and accessibility coming into sharper focus, it is more important than ever to have an **Ally** on your side. **Ally** is a tool in

Blackboard that helps with accessibility in your online courses.

Ally is instrumental in:

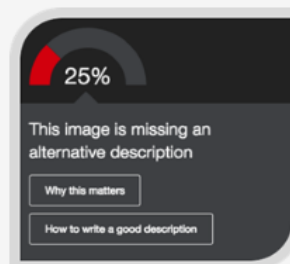
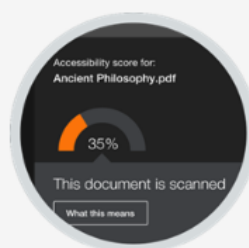
- Providing guidance to instructors about how to improve the quality of their content, and
- Providing students of all abilities with immediate access to content in formats that may be more suited to their specific needs.

[Watch Blackboard Ally Four Courses video](#)

How does it work?

Blackboard Ally's workflow is embedded in your day-to-day Blackboard interactions:

- Blackboard instructor adds course content.
- A **WCAG 2.0 AA** compliant automated accessibility checklist is run against the uploaded content
- Taking place in background: Blackboard does a full structural/visual analysis to learn the semantics of all documents (Headings, heading structures, paragraphs, footers, tables, lists, mathematical formulas etc. are identified).
- Ally produces alternative accessible versions: Semantic HTML, ePub, audio, electronic braille and OCR versions of all scanned documents. The student will access these versions with a click of their mouse or a tap of their finger.
- Ally provides the instructor feedback about accessibility of course content and guidance on how to fix.



Interested in Using Ally?

[Reach out to your instructional designer](#) or [sign up for a fully-online self-paced faculty development session.](#)

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