# Anthology Ally

Anthology Ally is an accessibility assistant built directly into D2L. Ally provides instructors with information to help them correct most ADA issues within their course. Additionally, it provides students with the option to change the original files into another alternate format.

Alternate Formats

The A with a down arrow, shown above, is the alternate format button. It will appear on files that have been checked by Ally. When a student clicks the button, they will be prompted with a pop-up window that will allow them to convert the original file into one of the options provided.

Note: You can turn off all alternate formats for a file. This will need to be completed per each file you do not want alternate formats turned on. You can find this option under the "download alternate formats" dropdown in the image below.
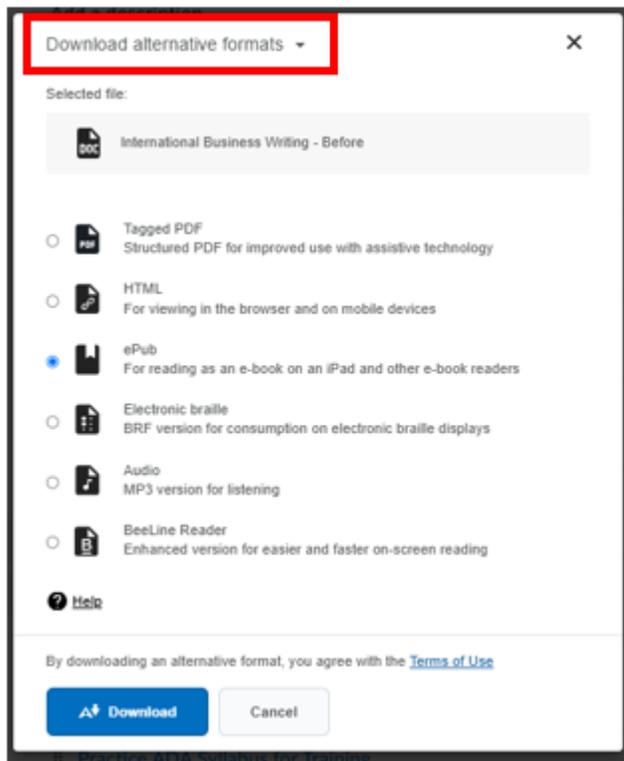
The options provided that they can convert a file into are:

- Tagged PDF
    - Available for Word and PowerPoint files only.
    - Provides a PDF with accessibility tags and content structure.
- OCR PDF
    - Stands for Optical Character Recognition. This option takes a scanned document and pulls the words out of the image so screen readers can utilize the file.
    - Available for PDFs that are scanned or just images.
    - Converts the PDF from an image/scan into searchable text.
    - Note: OCR PDF does not provide accessibility tags.
- HTML
    - This option adds accessibility tags and elements to a page to add meaning for screen readers.
    - HTML is viewed in a browser and adapts to the device you are viewing it on.
- ePub
    - Stands for Electronic Publication.
    - Very customizable (font type, font size, text and background color, annotations, etc.).
    - Adapts to the device you are viewing it on.
    - Users will need an ePub reader if they choose this option.
    - A few free ePub options are Calibre, Adobe Digital Editions, and Sumatra PDF Reader.
- Electronic Braille
    - Converts the file into a BRF file that can be read on a refreshable Braille display.
- Audio
    - Converts the file into an mp3 file.
    - Will announce any ADA compliance in the original file, such as headers or alternate text for images.
    - 200k character limitation which is about 5 hours of audio.
- BeeLine Reader
    - Helps with easier and faster reading.
    - Displays text using a color gradient that helps pull your eye through your readings.
    - Great for users with dyslexia, ADHD, or low vision.

Accessibility Scores

To measure accessibility, Ally will assign an accessibility score to each file it checks. This score is shown as a meter along with a color that reflects the score. These scores are determined by the severity of issues in each file. Ally uses multiple accessibility checks and averages the results out to receive the file's score.
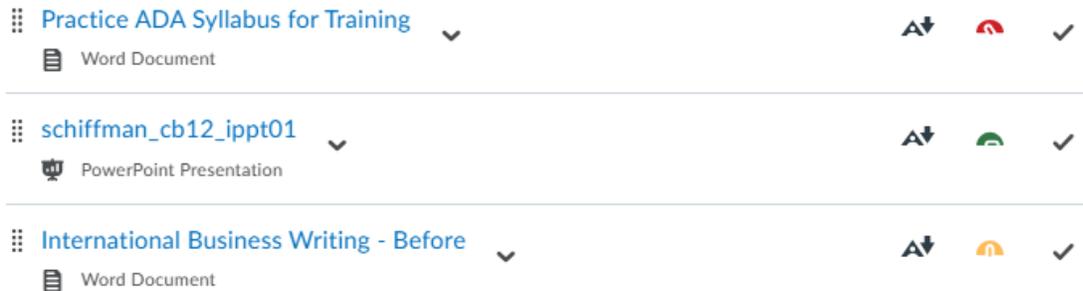
Scores range from low to perfect. The higher the score, the fewer the issues.

- Low, 0-33%, shown as a red meter: Needs help! There are several accessibility issues.
- Medium, 34-66%, shown as a yellow meter: A little better. The file is somewhat accessible and needs improvements.
- High, 67-99%, shown as a light green meter: Almost there. The file is mostly accessible but more improvements are possible.
- Perfect, 100%, shown as a dark green meter: Excellent! Ally didn't identify any accessibility issues but further improvements may still be possible.

When uploading a new file, you should typically see your score in 15-90 seconds. This may take longer if your content is complex or if you have a lot of course content and it is being assessed all at once.

Ally checks the following file formats:

- PDF files
- Word files
- PowerPoint files
- Uploaded HTML files
- Image files (JPG, JPEG, GIF, PNG, BMP, TIFF)
- Most content in D2L text boxes, such as instructions posted in a D2L module or "create a file" pages in content.
    - You need to be in edit mode to see the accessibility score. It should appear in the bottom right corner of the edit window.
    - It will also check discussion and test instructions but only if they are linked to the content area.
- Embedded YouTube videos and links to YouTube videos
- OpenOffice/LibreOffice files

Currently, Ally does <u>not</u> check the following:

- File formats not mentioned above
- Most audio/videos, especially those uploaded directly into D2L
- News items
- Test/Quiz questions
- Links that lead to outside sources
- External learning tools/LTIs

Instructor Feedback Panel

Clicking on the accessibility meter next to a file will open the instructor feedback screen. This panel will show you a preview of the document's content as well as provide you with feedback and support to fix accessibility issues.

Highlights

The preview section highlights where specific accessibility issues can be found in the document. Highlights show every occurrence of one issue type at a time. For example, if your images are missing alternative descriptions, the highlights show you every place this specific issue occurs. Highlights are provided for images without alt text, contrast issues, and tables without headers.

Preview Tools
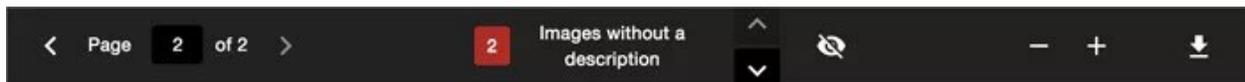
The bar above the preview provides additional tools so you can explore the issues in your document.

These tools will do the following:

- Move through the document preview page by page.
- See how many times a specific issue appears in the document.
- Jump between the issue highlights.
- Hide or show the highlights.
- Zoom the preview content in or out.
- Download the original file.

Accessibility Guidance Section

For accessible files, Ally tells you what you did correctly. For files with Low to High scores, Ally shows you the issues and gives a step-by-step guide on how to fix them.

A. The Accessibility Score: This shows your overall score for the entire file.
B. The All Issues Button: Clicking this button will show you all the issues within the file. This view shows how much the accessibility score can improve when each issue is fixed.
C. Description and Assistance: This section shows a description of the first accessibility issue. There are two clickable boxes in this section. "What this means" will give you more information about the accessibility issue and how it helps those who are disabled. "How to…." Will give you step-by-step instructions on how to correct the accessibility issue.
D. Upload File: This is where you can upload your corrected file so that it will replace the old one in D2L.

Course Accessibility Report

The course accessibility report acts as a complement to the existing accessibility indicators. It provides an accessibility summary and overview at the course level.

You can find the Ally Course Report under "more" on your navigation bar. This report will open in a new window.
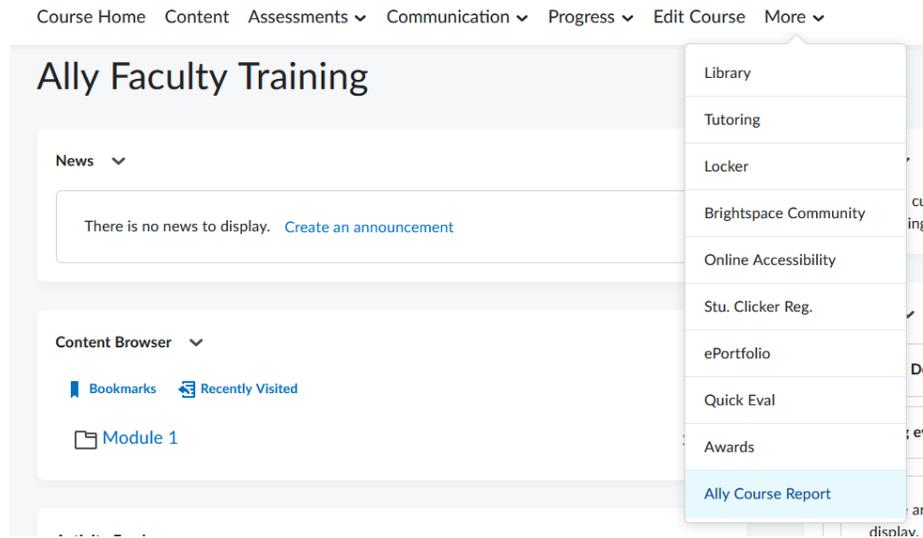
Ally's course accessibility report includes Overview and Content tabs so that you can get the big picture as well as specific details about the accessibility of your course content.

There are two main tabs, Overview and Content.

The Overview tab shows the following:

1. The overall accessibility score for the course.
2. A graph that shows course content grouped by content type.
3. A "choose what to fix first" section that provides you with two options for quick fixes.
4. A list of all issues identified in the course, sorted by severity and grouped by accessibility issue.

The Content tab will show you all of the documents in your course that need accessibility corrections.

In both the Content tab and in the remaining issues section of the Overview tab you can click on any of the documents listed and it will open it up the Instructor Feedback Panel for that document. This will allow you to fix documents in your course without the extra steps of going back to your course to find the document in question.

For example, in the screenshot above, I clicked on the document "Scanned Example." Below is the window that appears.

Clicking on the Scanned Example again takes me to the Instructor Feedback Panel.

Accessibility score for:
Scanned Example

0%

This PDF is scanned

What this means

How to fix this

Upload a text-based version

Drop file to upload
or
Browse

Help

Please Understand Me

II

Temperament Character Intelligence

The accessibility report is extremely useful. Instead of going through each module in your course to locate documents with errors, you can use the accessibility report so that all of your documents with errors are in the same place providing easy access for quick corrections!