# Blackboard Ally for Students



### What is BB ALLY?

Blackboard Ally is a system that makes digital course content accessible and it creates alternative accessible formats for BB users!

### **Quick Start for Students**

Ally helps create alternatives for files that are uploaded to BB by instructors.

- 1. Log into your course and find the file that you would like view an Alternative Format.
- 2. Click the dropdown arrow to the right of the file name and select Alternative Formats.

#### **Clinical Medicine Hematology Module Guide (W17)**



3. Choose your desired alternative format

## Ally can provide alternative formats for these file types:

- PDF files
- Microsoft<sup>®</sup> Word files
- Microsoft<sup>®</sup> PowerPoint<sup>®</sup> files
- OpenOffice/LibreOffice files
- Uploaded HTML files

#### The alternative formats for the above file types Ally can produce:

- OCR'd version (for scanned documents)
- Tagged PDF (currently for Word, PowerPoint and OpenOffice/LibreOffice files)
- Semantic HTML
- Audio
- ePub
- Electronic Braille

ontent	Tagged PDF Structured PDF for Improved use with assistive technology
Syllabus	HTML For viewing in the browser and on mobile devices
	4. • Pub For reading as an e-book on an IPad and other e-book readers
Introduction to Chemistry ©	BRF version for consumption on electronic braille displays
Atoms + Compounds	Audio MP3 version for listening

<u>Alternative formats</u> provide greater opportunity for everyone to access the information they need in the way they need or want it. With alternative formats, all students can meet the same learning objectives using resources that are built to target the needs of the individual student. For example, Blackboard Ally creates audio and electronic braille alternatives for students with visual impairments. Reference the following link for more information on the benefits of having and using the alternative facts provided:

#### Student FAQs about Ally:

- 1. When an alternative format content item is requested for the first time, Ally generates this on demand. Once Ally generates the content item, the alternative format is downloaded. Ally then also caches the result, so any additional requests for the same alternative format can be served and downloaded from cache immediately.
- 2. Ally currently only processes instructional content. For example, content added by someone with edit permissions in the course, such as the instructor or instructional designer. Ally currently does not process student content or student submissions.
- 3. <u>Ally has a Translated Version!</u> This alternative format provides a machine-translated version of the instructor's original into a total of 50 different languages and supports PDF, Word, PowerPoint and HTML documents.

#### Which Alternative Format Should I use?

Not sure what format to download? Let us help you decide. This table shows at-a-glance the best formats for your different study needs.

You might not see every alternative format in your list of choices to download. The formats generated depend on the original file uploaded.

Your study needs	Electronic braille	Audio	PDF, OCR	PDF, Tagged	HTML, Semantic	ePub
Adjust text, font, and background color					•	•
Adjust audio playback speed		•				
Commuting		•	•	•		•
Commuting, driving		•				
Copy, paste, and search			•	•	•	•
Format adapts to device, responsive					•	•
Highlighting, note taking, and bookmarking			•	•		•
Mobile device		•			•	•
Offline	•	•	•	•	•	•
Prefer listening		•				
Prefer reading	•		•	•	•	•
Print	•		•	•	•	•
Text to speech with speed adjustment			•	•	•	•

Figure 1 For more information visit <u>Blackboard's Help site on alternative formats</u>.