

Ally Arrives at OntarioLearn!



Beginning in March 2026


We're thrilled to announce that OntarioLearn will be introducing Ally to enhance your online learning experience! This powerful accessibility tool will be integrated directly into your online courses, giving you more flexibility and control over how you access and engage with course materials. You'll start seeing Ally in your courses beginning March, with full rollout completing over the term.

What is Ally?

Ally is an innovative accessibility tool that automatically transforms your course content into multiple alternative formats—all at the click of a button. Think of it as your personal learning assistant that works 24/7 to adapt materials to fit how you learn best—whether you're studying on campus, commuting, or learning from home.

How Will Ally Benefit You?

Learn Your Way, Anywhere

Next to most course materials, you'll see an "Alternative Formats" icon  that lets you download the same content in many of the following formats:

- Audio (MP3) – Listen while commuting, exercising, or multitasking
- HTML – Optimized for mobile devices and easier reading on smartphones
- ePub – Ideal for e-readers and tablets with adjustable text size
- Electronic Braille – Essential support for visual impairments
- Tagged PDF – Enhanced accessibility for screen readers
- Immersive Reader – Includes text-to-speech and reading comprehension tools
- BeeLine Reader – Uses color gradients to improve reading speed
- Translated Versions – Access content in different languages

Personalize Your Learning Experience

Everyone learns differently. Whether you're an auditory learner who prefers listening, a visual learner who reads on mobile devices, or someone managing eye strain, Ally provides formats that work for you. Use multiple formats together—follow along with an ePub while listening to the audio version.

Review Material on Your Schedule

If available, download alternative formats for offline access and study on the go without worrying about internet connectivity. Materials automatically adapt to your laptop, tablet, or smartphone.

No Extra Steps Required

You won't need to request special formats or wait for conversions. Ally works automatically in the background. Simply look for the "Alternative Formats" icon next to your course materials and select the available format you prefer.

Support for Everyone

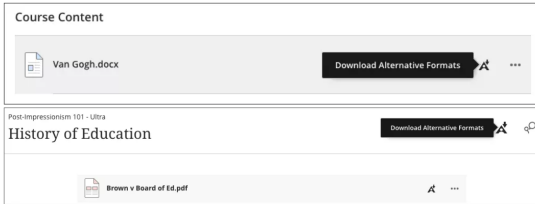
While Ally is particularly beneficial for students with disabilities or accommodations, the alternative formats improve the learning experience for everyone—whether you're managing a busy schedule, balancing work and family, or simply looking for more effective ways to study.

Getting Started

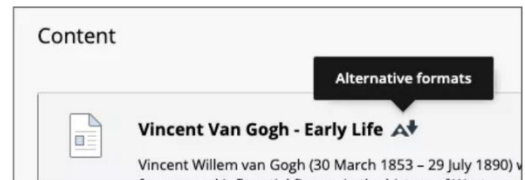
Beginning in March 2026 with the release continuing throughout the term, you'll see the “Alternative Formats” icon (a download arrow) appearing next to eligible course content in your online courses. Click the icon, choose your preferred format, and download it instantly — it's that simple! Whether you want to listen to lecture notes during your morning workout or read course materials on your tablet before bed, Ally puts you in control.

Here are some examples of what the tool will look like on different platforms.

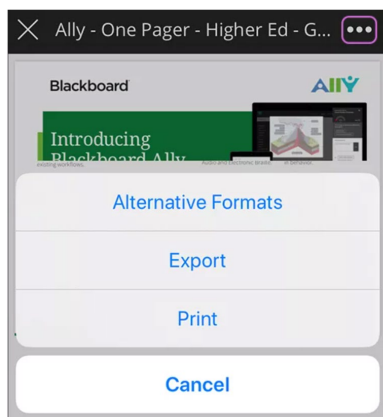
Blackboard Ultra Course View



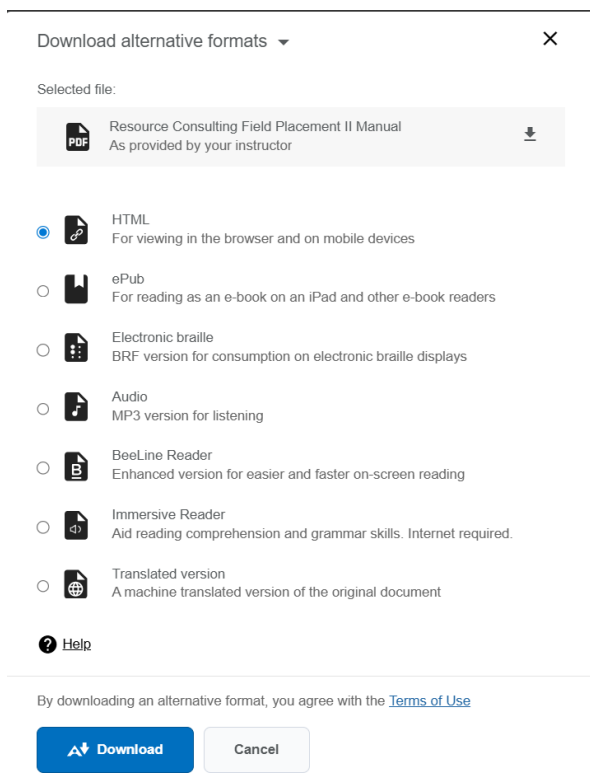
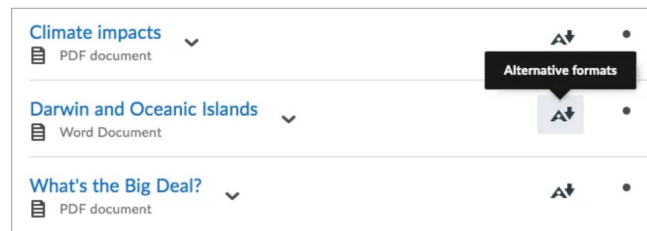
Blackboard Original Course View



Blackboard app



D2L Brightspace



We're excited to bring this innovative tool to OntarioLearn and look forward to supporting your academic success with more accessible, flexible learning options.