



Specialized support for first-generation students with Anthology Ally

Flexible digital learning content that meets students where they are



Challenges to academic success

First-generation students can face significant barriers to academic success, such as:



Inconsistent access to computers and high-speed Internet, which makes them more reliant on mobile devices and low-bandwidth file formats



Undiagnosed learning disabilities such as dyslexia and Attention Deficit Disorder, which impact reading comprehension without the support of disability-related accommodations



Courses offered in a language or dialect different than what is spoken in the home



Family and work obligations that impact opportunities for studying and increase the need for more flexible options for engagement

Enhancing digital content for access and learning

Anthology Ally allows students to convert digital files uploaded by their instructor into eight unique alternative formats designed to work better on mobile devices and study tools. How can alternative formats support the learning needs of first-generation students?

- Students who rely on mobile devices can convert their PDFs to the **HTML format** that's responsive to small screens for easier, faster reading.
- Students who need to access files on devices without Microsoft Office or who need a smaller file size because of bandwidth issues can download Microsoft PowerPoint and Word documents as **tagged PDFs**.
- Students with reading focus challenges like dyslexia or who just want to read faster can download their files in the **BeeLine Reader format**.
- Non-native speakers can download the **language translation format** when struggling with the meaning of text to aid their comprehension.
- Students can take advantage of the reading comprehension and study tools available in free eReaders for tablets and mobile by downloading their file as an **ePub format**.
- Students can improve the quality and readability of scanned PDFs by downloading the **OCRed PDF format** for a searchable document that works better with screen readers.

- Students with processing challenges and non-native speakers who benefit from “bimodal presentation” can download the **audio MP3 format** to read and listen at the same time. With the MP3 format, students can also listen to their texts on-the-go for a more flexible study option.
- With the **electronic Braille format**, students with visual impairments can understand the spelling, punctuation, and format of text on a page, while acquiring higher literacy rates on average.
- Students struggling with on-screen reading can use the **Microsoft Immersive Reader** format to enhance reading comprehension, making it faster and easier.

An immediate impact on the student experience

Once alternative formats are enabled in courses, students can download their learning content in formats that meet their learning needs without additional support from instructors. Empowering first-generation students with access and choice can build confidence, help them develop more effective study habits, and improve their academic outcomes.

Instructor feedback promotes effective digital content authoring and course design

While Ally makes automated improvements to course files through the alternative formats, instructors can ensure students have access to higher quality alternative formats by addressing accessibility issues with their original files. For example, adding image descriptions and headings to documents can improve the structure of the mobile-friendly HTML format and the quality of the audio MP3.



The Instructor Feedback helps instructors quickly identify usability issues with their digital files and provides them with guidance on how to improve them using their authoring tools.



The Course Accessibility Report provides instructors with insights into course design and helps them prioritize accessibility issues and content with the most impact on students.

Institutional report provides insights for readiness and responsiveness

Times of rapid change can be especially challenging for first-generation students. As institutions shift course delivery models and rely more on digital content, detailed insights into changes in course content and tool usage help institutions proactively identify barriers to access and better ensure first-generation students aren't left behind. **The Institutional Report** provides administrators with rich data about accessibility issues and tool usage across the learning management system, empowering academic leaders with the information needed for strategic decision making, change management, and targeted support.

A focus on accessibility improves equity, inclusion, and access for all students!

[Learn more about Ally](#)

