

# Ally Accessibility Check

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## Benefits of Ally

Lone Star College-Online strives for an inclusive learning environment by championing the [principles of Universal Design for Learning \(UDL\)](http://udloncampus.cast.org/home). (<http://udloncampus.cast.org/home>) To support this effort, the college has adopted Ally, a tool in your D2L courses that benefits all learners by helping to make digital course content more accessible and usable; options that support the UDL principle of multiple means of representation.



## What is Ally?

The same company (Blackboard) that created the Blackboard Learn Learning Management System (LMS), has created another product called **Ally**. Ally works seamlessly with many different LMS (such as D2L Brightspace) to **gauge the accessibility of online course content**. Ally provides guidance and tips for lasting improvements to your content accessibility. Ally does the following:

- Automatically runs all course materials through an accessibility checklist that checks for common accessibility issues
- Provides feedback on the accessibility of your content
- Provides options and step-by-step instructions for improving the accessibility of your content

In addition to providing you with insight to your content accessibility, Ally **automatically creates alternative versions of your files**. This allows students to choose the type of file they want that best suits their needs. For example, a PDF document can be downloaded as an HTML file for viewing on a mobile device, or as an MP3 audio file for playback while commuting or working out. While you're in the process of improving files, students still access alternative copies.

## More Ally Information

- [How Ally Works in D2L \(https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/blackboard-ally-overview\)](https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/blackboard-ally-overview)
- [Ally FAQs for Faculty \(https://help.blackboard.com/Ally/Ally\\_for\\_LMS/Instructor/FAQs\)](https://help.blackboard.com/Ally/Ally_for_LMS/Instructor/FAQs)
- [Alternative Formats for Students \(https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/alternative-format\)](https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/alternative-format)
- [Ally Course Accessibility Report \(https://help.blackboard.com/Ally/Ally\\_for\\_LMS/Instructor/Course\\_Accessibility\\_Report\)](https://help.blackboard.com/Ally/Ally_for_LMS/Instructor/Course_Accessibility_Report)
- [Accessibility at Lone Star College \(https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/a017\)](https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/a017)

*Adapted from the [Ally section in Blackboard Help](https://help.blackboard.com/Ally) (<https://help.blackboard.com/Ally>).*

You can ask your Online Services [campus representative](https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/campus-reps) (<https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/campus-reps>) or [instructional designer](https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/meet-your-designers) (<https://vtac.lonestar.edu/help/meet-your-designers>) for more details about Ally or send an email to [VTAC@lonestar.edu](mailto:VTAC@lonestar.edu) ([\(\)](mailto:VTAC@lonestar.edu)).