Ally and Accessibility
Instructor Training
Remote Training

Workshop Content

Instructors and institutions understand the need for accessible content. The Blackboard Ally solution automatically checks course content for accessibility issues and uses this information to focus on key areas of support.

- Alternative Accessible Versions – Blackboard Ally automatically generates alternative accessible versions for course content and makes these available to all users within the course within minutes.
- Instructor feedback – Blackboard Ally provides the instructor with feedback about the accessibility of their course content and guidance on how to fix accessibility issues that arise.

Two levels of Blackboard Ally training are available. Institutions should decide which level of training is most appropriate for their instructors and learning environment.

Level 1. Using Blackboard Ally to Create and Maintain Accessible Online Resources

Designed to provide a thorough introduction to the concept of accessibility, this robust synchronous course offers an in-depth look at accessibility issues and solutions in online learning. Participants will explore crucial barriers to accessibility, and experience first-hand how assistive technologies enable learners with disabilities to take full advantage of educational materials.

Participants will examine the alternative versions of materials provided by Ally, and learn how they contribute to the overall accessibility of their courses.

In keeping with the concept of Universal Design, course participants will learn to incorporate the feedback that Ally provides into specific best practices when creating and modifying materials using common software programs such as Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Adobe PDF.

The Level 1 course is most appropriate for instructors who are relatively new to the principles of accessibility, or who may be faced with a time-sensitive need to bring their teaching materials into compliance with accessibility standards.

Level 2. Using Blackboard Ally to Enhance Accessibility

Designed with the experienced user in mind, this more streamlined and compact course takes a higher-level overview of accessibility issues, and focuses on the benefits provided by Blackboard Ally.

Participants will learn how Ally evaluates existing and new course content, and will observe and understand the various alternative formats which it generates. They will also learn how to incorporate the feedback that Ally provides to increase the accessibility of any new materials they add to their course.

The Level 2 course is most appropriate for instructors who already have a good grasp of the concepts of accessibility and need an introduction to the additional functionality provided by Blackboard Ally.

Workshop Objectives

Upon completion of the workshop, participants should be able to:

- Understand and identify the benefits of universal design.
- Identify accessibility challenges institutions, instructors and students face.
• Review accessibility guidelines.
• Understand how assistive technology interprets content.
• Create alternative accessible versions of course content.
• Review key barriers that inhibit the accessibility of content.
• Apply changes to content based on recommendations from the Ally accessibility plan.
• Understand and interpret results based on recommended remediation approaches.
• Identify and utilize accessibility tools to create more accessible content.

Participation
Participation is limited to 15 participants.

Who Should Attend
Course instructors, course designers, administrators, and support personnel who wish to learn more about using Ally to support accessibility.

Duration
Level 1 - This workshop lasts three hours, and may be delivered in 1 three-hour or two 1.5-hour Blackboard Collaborate sessions.
Level 2 This workshop is delivered using Blackboard Collaborate in one 1.5-hour session.