DOWNLOAD ALTERNATIVE FORMATS

Blackboard Ally allows you to download alternative formats of instructor content directly from your course. Alternative formats provide the opportunity for you to access information in the way you need or want it. They are beneficial for everyone. You now have the option to choose a file format that works best for you.

Instructions

1. Navigate to course content. If a file can be downloaded in an alternative format you will see the Ally symbol to the right of the linked file. The symbol has an "A" with an arrow pointing down.
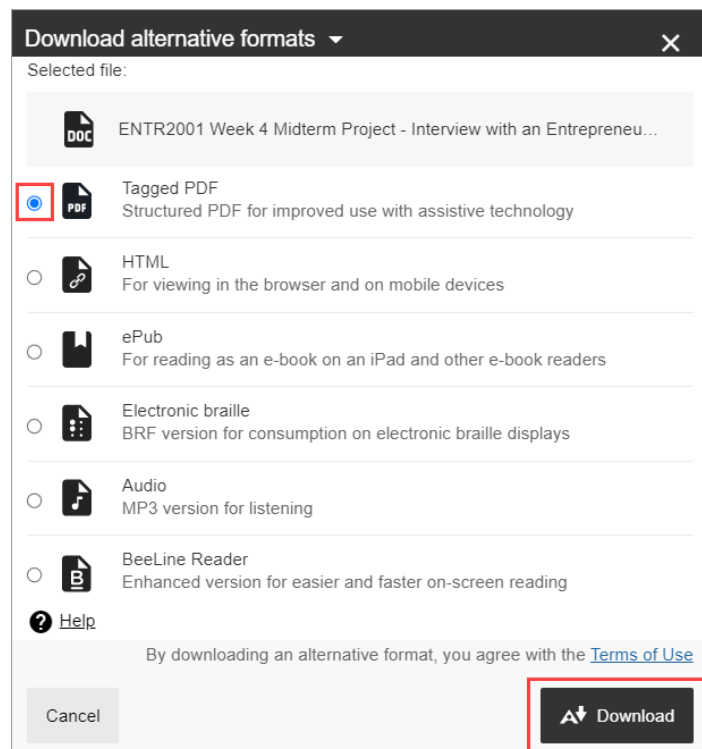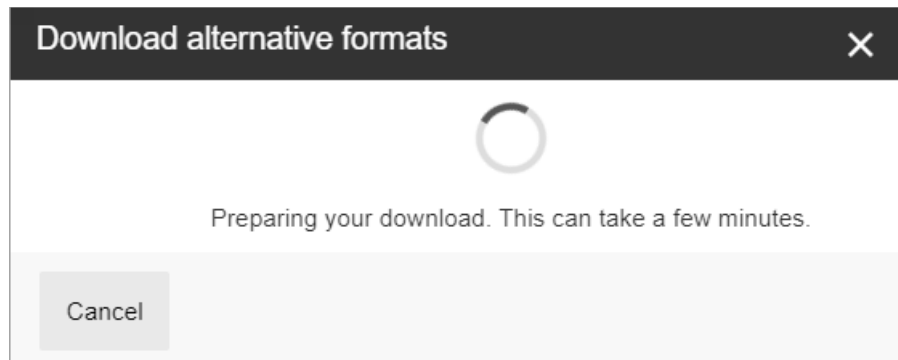

Click on the **symbol**.

2. Select the type of alternative format to download from the list. Click **Download**.

> **Note:**
>
> Not all instructor content will be available in every alternative format.

3. Ally prepares the file. It may take a few minutes depending on the file size. If another student previously requested the file in the same format, it will process faster.

4. Once the file finishes processing it downloads to your computer. Open the file in the appropriate program and access the content.

Types of Alternative Formats

Below is a list of alternative formats available to download from Ally. You might not see every alternative format type listed as an option to download. The formats generated depend on the original content type.

- **Audio:** The audio alternative reads aloud the text in the original content. This also includes alternative descriptions for images, if they are provided. The audio format is saved as an MP3. MP3s are compressed, high-quality sound files that can be played on any computer or mobile device.

- **Electronic Braille:** The electronic braille alternative creates a BRF file that can be read on a refreshable Braille display (RBD), other Braille reading devices, or within a Braille software like Duxbury. Think of a Refreshable Braille Display (RBD) as a monitor-less computer. Most RBDs can connect to internet, create documents, access calendar, and a lot of the basic functionality a computer provides. RBDs can be a standalone device. They can also be connected to a smartphone, iPad, or laptop. Most RBDs are limited to reading one line of Braille at a time.

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- **ePub:** The ePub alternative creates a digital publishing file that can be viewed on mobile devices. ePub files are reflowable. Reflowable means that the content displayed automatically adapts to the device it is viewed on.

- **Semantic HTML:** What is Semantic HTML? Tags and elements—such as blockquote, paragraph, and headings—are added to add meaning to a page. These tag and elements aid screen reader users with good content structure. Semantic HTML is viewed in a browser and adapts to the device you are viewing it on.

- **OCR PDF:** OCR stands for Optical Character Recognition. The OCR PDF alternatives are created when the original content is a PDF of an image. OCR technology analyses the content and converts the image into searchable text.

- **Tagged PDF:** A Tagged PDF alternative uses tags and elements—such as blockquote, paragraph, and headings—to add meaning to a page. It aids screen reader users with good content structure.

- **BeeLine Reader:** BeeLine Reader makes reading on screen easier and faster. Instead of using plain black text, BeeLine Reader displays text using a subtle color gradient that helps pull your eye through your readings. This new display format has been honored by the United Nations and is used by readers in 120 countries around the world.

- **Immersive Reader:** Immersive Reader is an online alternative format that enhances the reading experience by leveraging Microsoft's Immersive Reader technology, increasing the readability of the content for emerging readers, language learners, and people with learning differences. Note that this is an online-only tool, therefore no file will be downloaded to your device when selecting this option.

For additional information on alternative formats, visit Blackboard's Alternative Formats page for students.