FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY
Charles E. Schmidt
College of Medicine

Canvas: Enhancing ADA Accessibility with Ally

Christine Clevenger - 2025-11-25 - ADA Digital Accessibility Support

Using Ally: Enhancing ADA Accessibility in Canvas

Why does Florida Atlantic University use Ally within Canvas? *(click to expand)*

FAU is committed to ensuring digital accessibility in accordance with federal and state laws, including Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act and WCAG 2.1 AA standards. Ally supports this mission by:

- Scanning course content for accessibility issues.
- Providing instructors with feedback and remediation guidance.
- Offering students alternative formats such as HTML, audio, ePub, and electronic braille.

How does Ally work? *(click to expand)*

Once a file is uploaded to Canvas, Ally automatically:

- **Analyzes the content** for accessibility issues.
- **Generates alternative formats** for students to download.
- **Displays accessibility scores** using a colored gauge icon.
- **Provides instructor feedback** with step-by-step instructions to improve accessibility.

What do the Accessibility Scores mean?*(click to expand)*

Each file receives a score based on its accessibility:

- **Low (0–33%)**: Severe issues.
- **Medium (34–66%)**: Some issues.
- **High (67–99%)**: Mostly accessible.
- **Perfect (100%)**: No issues detected.

Instructors can click the gauge icon next to a file to view its score and access remediation tips.

How can I get extra support or training on Ally for Canvas? *(click to expand)*

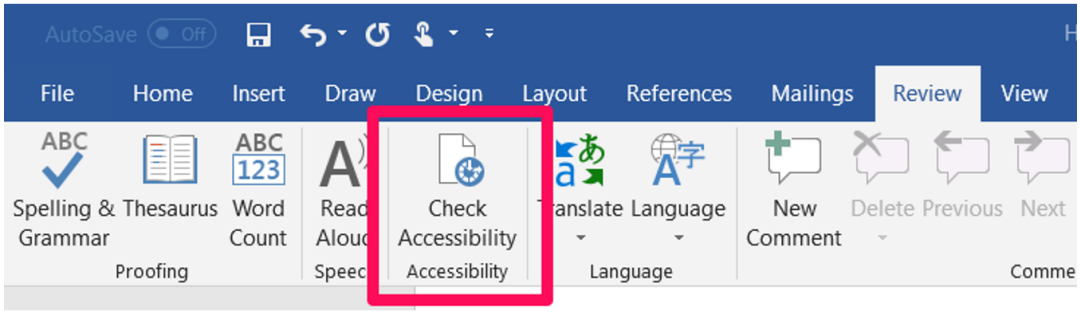
Faculty can begin using Ally by simply uploading content to Canvas. No additional setup is required. For support:

- **Training & Resources**: Register for a **Training Session** here
- **Accessibility Support**: Contact the **Student Accessibility Services** at sas@fau.edu
- **Technical Help**: Reach out to **OIT Help Desk** at help@fau.edu

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Tips for Improving Accessibility Prior to Uploading to Canvas *(click to expand)*

- Always run the Microsoft “Accessibility Checker” under the “Review” tab in Excel, Word, PowerPoint, etc. before posting documents.



- Use accessible templates for PowerPoint. (COM Templates and FAU templates)
- Add alt text to images. Alt text is often as simple as “What would you type into Google to find this image?”
- Use unique headings in Word and PowerPoint documents.
- Avoid scanned PDFs when possible.
- Use attached ADA Checklist for guidance.

Attachments

- COM Ed Tech Recommended ADA Checklist.pdf (119.70 KB)