

Course Access FAQs

For Instructors



Course Access is a course-by course delivery model in which faculty-adopted etexts and digital content are sent automatically to participating students by the first day of class. Course Access is a fraction of the cost of printed materials and eliminates the need for students to shop around for textbooks. With Course Access, more students start prepared on day-one.

Q: How are course materials delivered to students?

A: With an Course Access program, course materials are delivered to students through the campus Learning Management System (LMS), typically via a link embedded in the course.

Q: Where do students access their course materials?

A: Students access their course materials by logging into their course in the campus LMS (Canvas, Blackboard, etc.), where they'll click on their Course Access materials link.

Q: How do students pay?

A: The cost of the materials is automatically billed to their student account unless they opt-out.

Q: What are the benefits of Course Access for instructors?

A: With Course Access, students have their course materials by the first day of class, so instructors can immediately begin teaching on day one. Instructors see increased course passing rates, as well as improved course and program outcomes. They maintain academic freedom and ensure all students start class on an even footing.

Q: What are the benefits of Course Access for students?

A: With Course Access, students get immediate access to their required digital course materials at a reduced price by the first day of class. Course Access provides increased convenience with automatic purchase and delivery through the LMS. The program supports late registration, changes in schedule, and offers the flexibility to opt-out at the course level.

Q: What are the benefits of Course Access for the institution?

A: Course Access raises the value of degree programs by reducing the cost of attendance, adds greater value to each course, and immediately addresses the rising cost of education.

Q: How do I know if my course is eligible for Course Access?

A: Your institution's bookstore or publisher will inform you if your course materials are available through the Inclusive Access program.

Q: How do I adopt an Course Access title?

A: Search for your chosen course material(s) and submit your adoptions through the VitalSource adoptions portal. Students will be able to access all of their Course Access materials directly through the campus LMS. You can review titles in the VitalSource sampling platform, and then with one click, adopt in the Course Access adoptions platform.

Q: What if my students have trouble accessing their digital materials?

A: Instructors can direct students to the technical support resources provided by the LMS or the publisher, or work with your institution's IT support for assistance.

Q: Do students have to participate in the Course Access program?

A: Students can choose to opt-out of the program if they prefer to source the materials on their own. However, opting out may result in losing the discounted pricing and digital access benefits.

Q: What if a student opts out?

A: If a student opts out, they will not be charged for the digital materials but will be responsible for acquiring the necessary textbooks or resources independently.

Q: What if a student registers late for the course?

A: Course Access supports late registration and changes in a student's schedule.

Q: Are Course Access materials the same as traditional textbooks?

A: Digital materials provided in an Course Access program are similar to the traditional textbook, but come with additional digital tools like search functions, highlighting, note-taking, and interactive quizzes.

Q: How much does Course Access cost?

A: Prices are typically negotiated to be lower than print textbooks, but they may vary based on agreements between your institution, publishers, and bookstores.

Q: How do I let my students know about Course Access?

A: Let your students know that your course participates in the Course Access program by adding it into your syllabus.