Improving Accessibility on Blackboard with Ally.

Dr. Clark Shah-Nelson, DBA
3 Questions:

1. What does the term “accessible” mean to you in the physical world? (buildings, streets, sidewalks, etc…)

2. What does the term “accessibility” mean to you and/or your students?

3. What are ways you have made your course materials/activities accessible to as many students as possible?
UDL: Universal Design for Learning

UDL is a term for making curriculum all-encompassing and far-reaching, ensuring that all students can access learning.

Students are not the same.

Rather, they are individuals with differing abilities, strengths, experiences, backgrounds, needs, and learning styles.
Blackboard Ally: For Students

New to UMB in 2021

More Info
Ally for Faculty

Content accessibility indicators

**psychodynamic articles**

- [Sublette& Novick.pdf](#) (50.938 KB)
- [Jordan2001 6.1.pdf](#) (57.621 KB)

**CBT articles**

- [Basco-et-al.-2000.pdf](#) (1.079 MB)
- [Beck 2.pdf](#) (3.132 MB)
- [Beck 6 part 1.pdf](#) (4.188 MB)
- [Beck 6 part 2.pdf](#) (4.474 MB)
- [Culturally Sensitive Adaptations to CBT for Social Anxiety Disorder (1).pdf](#) (255.098 KB)
- [LaSala.pdf](#) (153.55 KB)
- [MindOverMood_Chapter14.ocr.pdf](#) (12.186 MB)
- [MindOverMood_Chapter13 6.1.pdf](#) (173.838 KB)
Ally for Faculty

Overall accessibility score

Fix severity/tips
Trauma Without Borders: The Necessity for School-Based Interventions in Treating Unaccompanied Refugee Minors

Diana Franco

Abstract
This article explores migration trauma among Mexican and Central American unaccompanied refugee minors (URM) with the purpose of developing an understanding of migration as a tripartite process consisting of: pre-migration exposure to traumatic stressors, in-journey stressors, and post-migration stressors. The migration experience of these youth may be subjectively different depending on a wide range of factors. The complexities of migration are explored as a traumatic, tripartite process. These three salient components of migration may act as precursors, often resulting in psychological sequelae such as: post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety, and depression. Of all migrant groups, URM are more likely to develop psychiatric symptoms. Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), Cognitive Behavioral Intervention for Trauma in Schools (CBITS), and Mental Health for Immigrants Program (MHIPP) are among the most effective interventions in the treatment of PTSD, anxiety, and depression in refugee minors. Social workers in schools are in unique positions to
UMB Stats (via CITS)

There are now 1,181 courses enabled for ALLY.

The **Fall 2022 Overall accessibility score 70.8%** mostly due to the **24,499** PDFs that are not OCRed.

OCR = Optical Character Recognition

Is your PDF a bunch of images or a bunch of highlightable text? If it is images (scanned/not OCRd) - screen reader software cannot read them.

You can use [docdrop.org](http://docdrop.org) to OCR PDFs, or use Adobe Acrobat Pro.
“Scanned PDFs: An Enemy of Accessibility”
SSW Stats

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>December 2021</th>
<th>December 2022</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>532 downloads</td>
<td>2211 downloads</td>
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<tr>
<td>147 students helped</td>
<td>381 students helped</td>
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<tr>
<td>47 courses w/downloads</td>
<td>154 courses w/downloads</td>
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<tr>
<td>43 instructor feedback launches</td>
<td>566 inst. feedback launches</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 content fixes</td>
<td>268 content fixes</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 courses with fixes</td>
<td>25 courses with fixes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Resources

BB Ally for Students in IDEA “Now That’s a Great IDEA” ezine, October, 2021

Bb Ally for Faculty in IDEA “Now That’s a Great IDEA” ezine, November 2021

Accessible Powerpoints “Now That’s a Great IDEA” ezine, January, 2022

Ally for Students

Ally for Faculty

UDL Guidelines

UMB ESDS For Faculty
Resources

**Accessibility Checklist for Online Course Development** (UMB)

**Ally Help Links:**
- **Release Notes**
  - [https://help.blackboard.com/Ally/Ally_for_LMS/Administrator/Release_Notes](https://help.blackboard.com/Ally/Ally_for_LMS/Administrator/Release_Notes)
- **WYSIWYG Accessibility**
  - [https://help.blackboard.com/Ally/Ally_for_LMS/Instructor/WYSIWYG](https://help.blackboard.com/Ally/Ally_for_LMS/Instructor/WYSIWYG)
- **Instructor Feedback Panel**
  - [https://help.blackboard.com/Ally/Ally_for_LMS/Administrator/Improve_Accessibility/Instructor_Feedback_Panel](https://help.blackboard.com/Ally/Ally_for_LMS/Administrator/Improve_Accessibility/Instructor_Feedback_Panel)

Once a course is Enabled for Ally, Instructors can access the Accessibility Report from Course Tools.
- [https://help.blackboard.com/Ally/Ally_for_LMS/Instructor/Course_Accessibility_Report](https://help.blackboard.com/Ally/Ally_for_LMS/Instructor/Course_Accessibility_Report)

**Instructor package: Resources and Support**

**Accessibility Checklist**

**Accessibility Indicators**