



Course Access FAQs

For Instructors

Course Access (CA) 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. CA 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 CA 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 CA course 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 CA for instructors?

A: With CA, 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 CA for students?

A: With CA, students get immediate access to their required digital course materials at a reduced price by the first day of class. CA 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 CA for the institution?

A: CA 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 CA?

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

Q: How do I adopt an CA 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 CA materials directly through the campus LMS. You can review titles in the VitalSource sampling platform, and then with one click, adopt in the CA 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 CA 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: CA supports late registration and changes in a student's schedule.

Q: Are CA materials the same as traditional textbooks?

A: Digital materials provided in an CA 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 CA 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 CA?

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