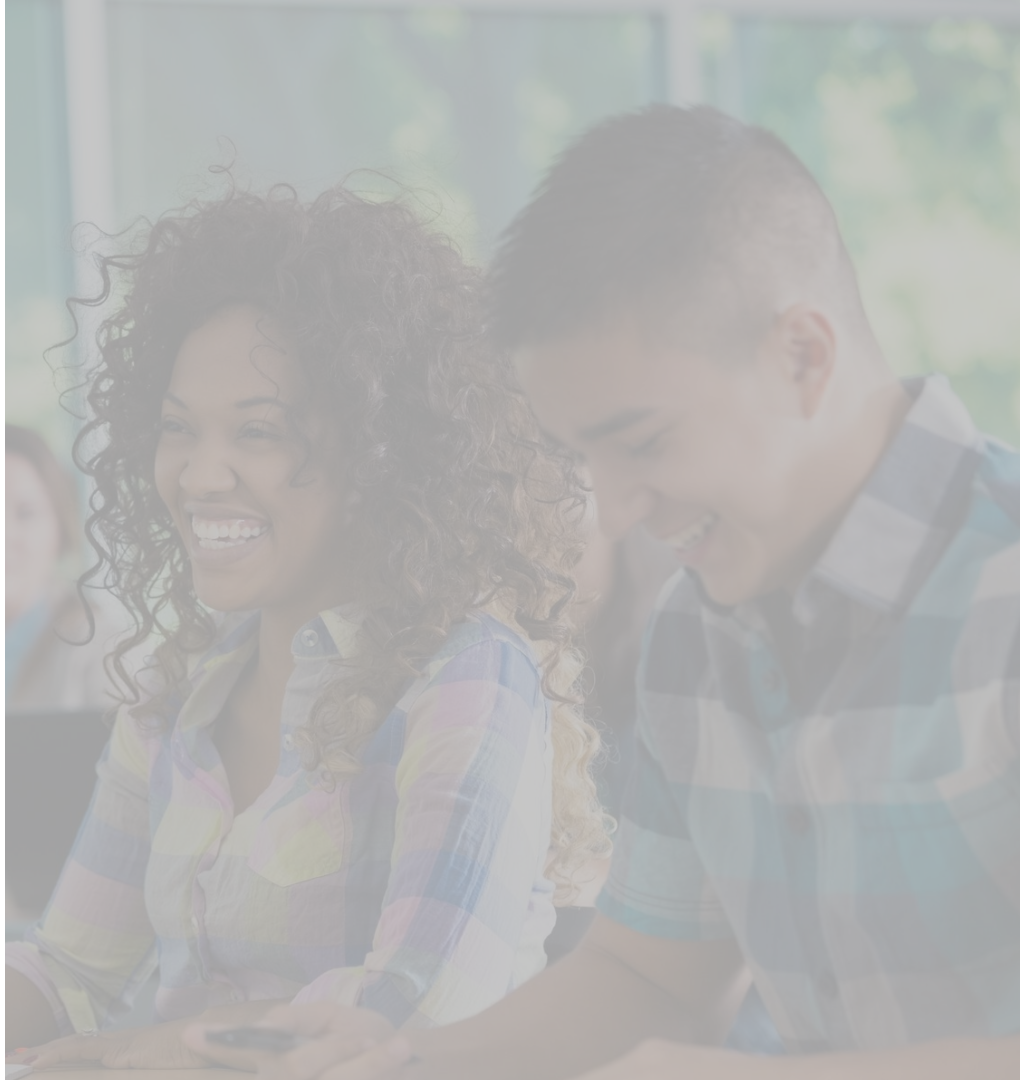


# How Digital Class Syllabi Support Equity and Accessibility

*Equity is the fair treatment, access, opportunity, and advancement for all people, while at the same time striving to identify and eliminate barriers that have prevented the full participation of some groups.*



# Session Agenda

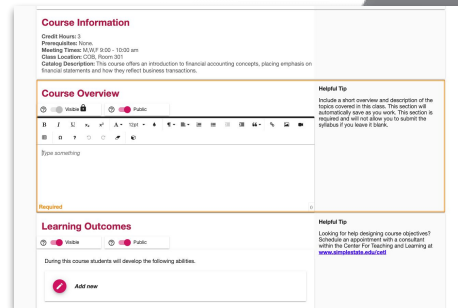
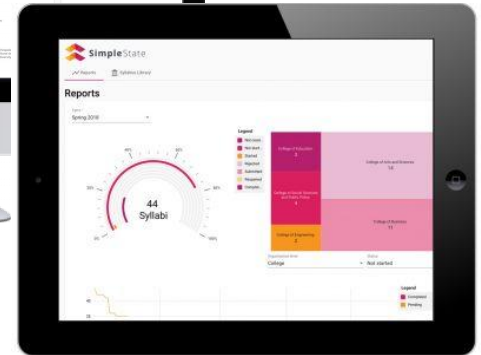
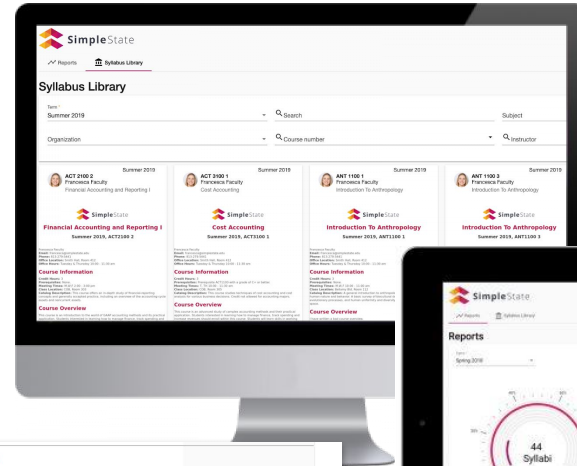
1. What is Simple Syllabus?
2. Equity and Accessibility In Education - Why and How the Syllabus Matters
3. Digital Syllabus Demonstration
4. Question & Answer



# Simple Syllabus

Solution for everyone on campus

Simple Syllabus is a centralized, template-driven platform that enables instructors to quickly personalize and publish interactive class syllabi—all while maintaining a centralized repository for reporting purposes.



# Transparent & Accurate

Creating an equitable relationship

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- Requirements for a course should be transparent, upfront, and consistent
  - **70%** of students indicated that syllabi missed key course information
  - **30%** of all syllabi fail to include the course learning objectives or grading scale
  - **95%** want access to the syllabus ahead of time
- Assignment dates/points/etc need to be specific
  - Many students work jobs and have other time commitments
- Average syllabus is 6-7 pages in length - Ease of use to find essential information is important
- “The content of the syllabus can serve to equalize the information that students from different backgrounds know about course policies, university policies, and university resources” ([Gin et al., 2021](#))

# Let's Talk About Access

Support for multiple form factors is key

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- Internet widely available, but many are under connected with some estimates indicating  $\frac{1}{3}$  of low income students only have mobile internet
  - [1 in 5 Americans rely on their smartphones](#) as their only internet connected device
- According to the Pew Research Center lower income smartphone owners are far [more likely to use their phone](#) for important life tasks
- In summary - Students see the syllabus as the most important resource for academic information yet this access isn't always equitable if a syllabus is not mobile optimized



# Accessibility For All

Is your syllabus fully accessible?

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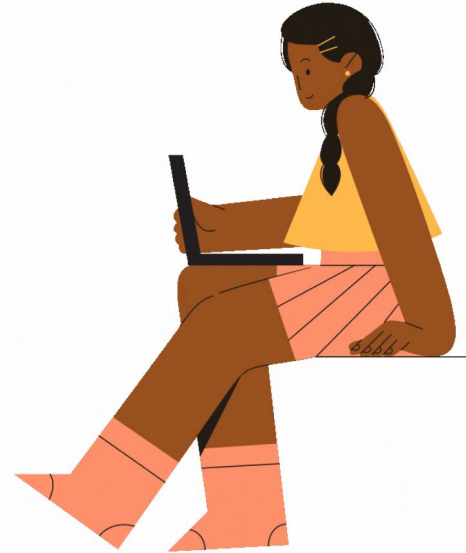
- 19% of undergraduate students in the US have a disability ([National Center for Education Statistics, 2016](#))
- According to UC Davis, many [students with disabilities prefer online courses](#) to face-to-face courses
- 1/3 of Colleges surveyed have not tested syllabi for accessibility
- Almost 30% of colleges don't have an ADA statement within syllabi ([Simple, 2021](#))
- PDF and Word Documents require specific steps for [PDF](#) and [Word Docs](#) to make sure a document is fully accessible
  - Ensuring Word Doc and PDF accessibility can be time consuming - Case study with Montclair 75% did not use provided template.

# Supporting Portability

Helping students get the credits they've earned

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- Minority students far more likely to be facing rent hardships and displacement due to COVID-19 ([JCHS, 2021](#))
- Course info can't be a moving target - Information that does change should be communicated clearly
- Give students the freedom to research and understand their academic journey
  - Student portfolio with curated collection of syllabi for courses taken
- Can help student with transfer, especially when out of state
  - Access doesn't need to expire
  - Documentation on completed studies
  - [Publicly available library](#) of syllabi



# How Syllabus Management Helps

Simple Syllabus

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## Faculty Friendly

- Seamlessly integrated within LMS
- Template driven platform, ensuring accessibility
- Curated publishing experience, opportunity to provide guidance on equity minded language to faculty
- Still empowered to personalize with academic freedom
- Save time by dynamically importing data, creating mobile document, and ensuring accessibility

## Student-centric

- Again, seamlessly integrated within LMS
- Always accurate through data integrations (LMS & SIS)
- Delivered across form factors (mobile, web, print)
- Personalized student portal (materials, enrolled classes, etc)



# Closing Remarks

We want to hear from you!

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## **Visit Website:**

[www.simplesyllabus.com](http://www.simplesyllabus.com)

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