

College Textbooks. Delivered.

The Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (LBPD) is a FREE service that provides accessible reading options to Maryland 2- and 4-year college students with print disabilities.



CALL: 800-964-9209



Textbooks in Audio

The Maryland Accessible Textbook Program (MAT) provides access to many college-level textbooks in MP3 or DAISY format. They can be played on Digital Talking Book Machines or MP3-enabled devices.



Textbooks in Digital Print

The MAT program provides access to many college-level textbooks in MS Word or PDF digital print. They can be read on devices with screen reading and screen enlargement technology.



Technical Assistance

The MAT staff can provide technical assistance to help you access the files we provide. We cannot provide most of the devices that exist, but we can certainly make you aware of them to help you decide which, if any, will meet your unique disability requirements.



Apply Early

Apply for MAT services as early as possible before each semester. You or your DSS office must provide MAT with the titles of the textbooks that are required for your classes. You will also be required to purchase any books you wish to have converted to an accessible format.

About Us

The Maryland Accessible Textbook Program (MAT) was created to offer additional choices to all Maryland college students who are blind or visually impaired or who, as authorized by the Maryland General Assembly, have other disabilities that make it difficult to read standard print.

Who Qualifies?

Any student enrolled in a 2- or 4-year Maryland college who:

- Is blind or has a visual impairment that prevents the student from reading standard print.
- Is unable to read standard print due to a severe organic reading disability.
- Is unable to read or use standard print material as a result of a physical limitation.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW DOES THIS PROGRAM WORK?

Students enrolled in 2- and 4-year Maryland colleges who have trouble accessing standard print may request our services through their DSS offices. Once services are established, students will need to purchase physical copies of their textbooks. The MAT team will either procure or create accessible digital versions that can be utilized with smart devices, digital talking book machines, eBraille readers or computers.

HOW DO I RECEIVE TEXTBOOKS FROM THE LIBRARY?

The MAT team will send you materials, primarily in an electronic format. Items may be emailed to you using download links or sent to you on an external flash drive. For materials that need to be physically given to students, pick up arrangements from the MAT team at LBPD can be made upon request.

WHAT DOES IT COST?

There is no cost for our textbook program. However, students are expected to purchase physical copies of books they wish to have converted, just as they would purchase other college materials.

WHO QUALIFIES FOR THE MARYLAND TEXTBOOK PROGRAM?

MAT provides services to students enrolled in 2- and 4-year Maryland colleges who fall into any of the following categories:

- Students whose visual acuity, as determined by a competent authority, is 20/200 or less in the better eye with correcting lenses or whose widest diameter of visual field subtends an angular distance no greater than 20 degrees.
- Any student whose visual disability, with correction and regardless of optical measurement, is certified by a competent authority as preventing the reading of standard printed material.
- Any student certified by a competent authority as unable to read or use standard printed material as the result of a physical limitation.
- Any student certified by a competent authority as having a perceptual or reading disability of sufficient severity to prevent the reading of printed material in a conventional manner.

WHAT DOCUMENTATION IS NEEDED?

The application for service must be signed by a “competent authority,” which is defined to include: Doctors of medicine, Doctors of osteopathy, Ophthalmologists, Optometrists, Registered nurses, Therapists, Professional staff of hospitals, institutions, and public or private welfare agencies, such as educators, social workers, caseworkers, counselors, rehabilitation teachers, certified reading specialists, school psychologists, superintendents, and librarians.

DO YOU OFFER ACCESS TO BOOKSHARE?

Yes! The library can provide all library patrons access to Bookshare at no cost to them. Bookshare® is an ebook library that makes reading easier. Members may access a huge collection of ebooks to read in any of several formats with the most customizable ebooks for people with reading barriers. Bookshare has over 1.2 million titles and is the most extensive collection of accessible ebooks in the world. It includes books for school, career, and reading pleasure, as well as titles in over 75 languages. Bookshare is intended to be used in conjunction with services from the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) and is compatible with NLS’s Digital Talking Book Machine (DTBM).