Contents

Faculty Orientation: What is Sharpen? 2

What is the Student Experience? 2

Sharpen and AI: How does Artificial Intelligence work in Sharpen? 3

How to Make the Most of Sharpen This Semester 4

How to Introduce Sharpen to Your Students 6

- Add this Sharpen overview to your syllabus 6
- First Day of Class: Send students a Sharpen introduction email 7
- Each Exam: Send students a Sharpen reminder email 8
- Final Exam: Send students a final Sharpen reminder email 8

Using McGraw Hill Connect®? Assign Sharpen for Completion Points to Monitor Students' Usage 9

Sharpen App Accessibility Overview 13

Faculty Orientation: What is Sharpen?

Welcome to Sharpen, McGraw Hill's college study app that revolutionizes exam prep. McGraw Hill created Sharpen to help today's busy students. Students tell us they feel regularly overwhelmed, and we've heard from faculty that students are constantly looking for more study content. Sharpen has what students need: study tools in short, engaging formats that help them learn efficiently and effectively.



Sharpen delivers a solution:



Hundreds of bite-sized study activities



Aligned with your course materials



Integrated with your McGraw Hill study platforms for easy access



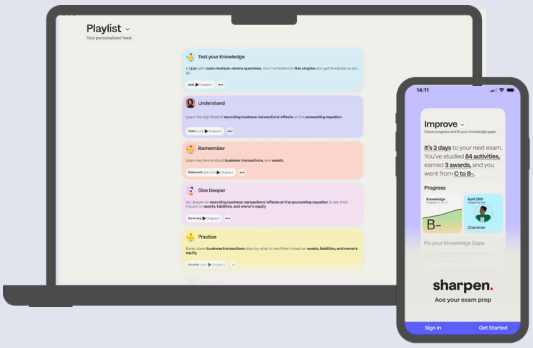
AI from McGraw Hill sources you can trust

What is the Student Experience?

Sharpen lets students choose how, when, and where they want to study.

Students can access Sharpen via launch points in Connect, ALEKS, McGraw Hill GO, or their LMS. They can also log into Sharpen at studysharpen.com or download the iOS or Android mobile app.

GET IT ON Google Play | Download on the App Store

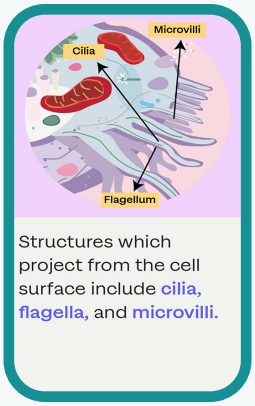


Each student has access to hundreds of study tools in different formats customized for their course:



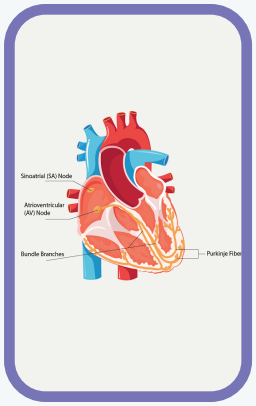
3-5 Minute Concept Videos

Videos deep-dive into individual concepts. Students can change the video speed and turn the transcript on and off.



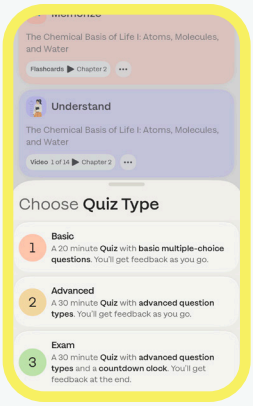
Visual Chapter Summaries

Summaries give brief chapter overviews with visuals and text students can play out loud.



Hundreds of Flashcards

Flashcards help students tackle terminology. They can tap to see definitions, swipe right to move forward, or click "remind me" to review terms again later.



Robust Quiz Bank

Quiz Bank is Sharpen's exam prep feature. As students complete quizzes they see scores, earn awards, and get study tips to improve.

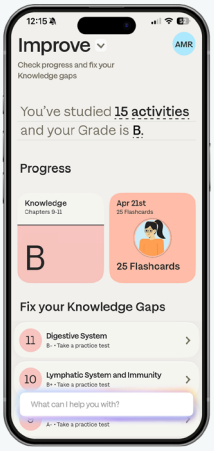


Step-by-Step Guided Solutions

Guided Solutions offer practice calculations with detailed explanations. This feature is available in select quantitative courses.

Sharpen and AI: How does Artificial Intelligence work in Sharpen?

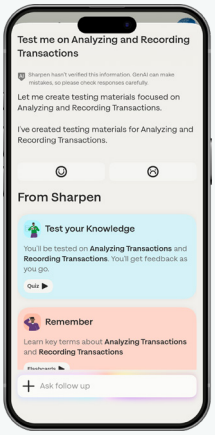
Sharpen gives students cutting-edge AI features to power their learning. These AI tools apply innovative technology to help students meet their academic goals in a structure instructors can trust.



Sharpen's Improve Feature

As students complete activities, Sharpen's AI engine **Improve** analyzes their progress and recommends study activities to tackle their knowledge gaps. Improve also shows students' strengths and badges for completed activities. During the term, students get prompts to review recommended activities and improve their Sharpen scores.

Students have access to Sharpen for the duration of their course.



Ask Sharpen: the AI Study Buddy

Ask Sharpen is students' AI study buddy! Students prompt Ask Sharpen and it finds or generates content by learning objectives related to students' queries. Ask Sharpen prioritizes returns according to the student's Sharpen scores and knowledge gaps.

Students can open Ask Sharpen from their Playlist or by tapping this icon wherever they see it in the app.

Ask Sharpen shares content from verified, trusted McGraw Hill sources and from external resources. Externally-sourced content is clearly labeled for instructors and students.

How to Make the Most of Sharpen This Semester

Thanks for including Sharpen in your McGraw Hill course! Sharpen complements your instruction as a virtual study buddy giving students a personalized, on-the-go study experience. With Sharpen, your students always have learning tools in their pocket and can stay on track from weekly lectures to exams.



Sharpen Bundle Options

Sharpen can be bundled with Connect, ALEKS, or GO based on the study materials you've selected for your course.

Getting Started

Once students purchase their study materials, they can get started with Sharpen!

How Students Access Sharpen

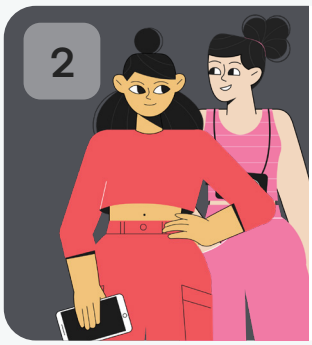
Students can access Sharpen from its launch points in Connect, ALEKS, GO, or their LMS. They can also log into Sharpen's mobile or web apps directly.

Here are some tips to make the most of Sharpen:



Recommend Sharpen to Your Students

Students want to hear from you! This document provides syllabus and email content you can use to recommend Sharpen and explain the app's features. Introduce Sharpen on the first day of class, tell students how they can get started, and encourage them to study with Sharpen before each exam.



Engage Students Throughout the Semester

Before each exam, remind students they should use Sharpen to review and master tough concepts. They can prompt Ask Sharpen for personalized study recommendations, and just five minutes reviewing Sharpen's to-the-point study tools can boost their grades. You can compare Sharpen users' scores with their peers' to see its impact on their learning.



Using Sharpen with Connect? Track Students' Progress

If you've paired Sharpen with Connect, you can assign Sharpen to your students for completion points. This way, you'll be able to see and reward the students who have used Sharpen. Keep reading for step-by-step instructions on creating and deploying the assignment.

★★★★★

I wanted to give my students an effective, flexible way to prepare-- something beyond office hours and tutoring sessions. Sharpen helps students meet their learning goals and gives me a trusted tool to recommend--without restructuring my course.

—Dr. Daniel Summers,
Professor of Business,
Rowan College at Burlington County

★★★★★

"Having engaging content that my students can relate to – and I know I can trust – will help them be better prepared."

—Dr. Julia Kalish,
Kelley School of Business
at Indiana University

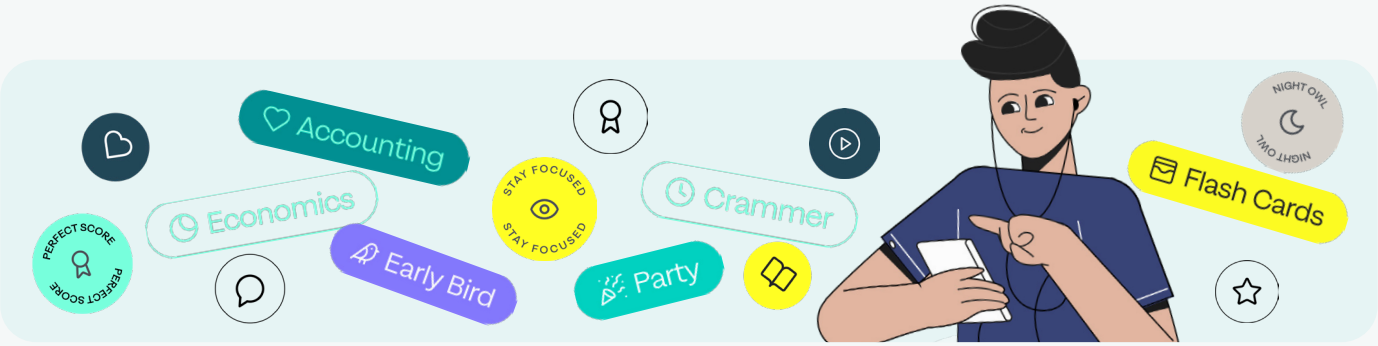
★★★★★

"My job as an instructor is to make sure from Day One that we have all the tools to help students with their success. So, I really start to push the SHARPEN app and then even use it for flipped learning."

—Dr. LaKisha Barrett,
Austin Community College

How to Introduce Sharpen to Your Students

Students tell us they rely on their instructors' recommendations to know which study materials to use. Now that you've added Sharpen to your course materials, here are a couple ways you can encourage your students to start learning with Sharpen.

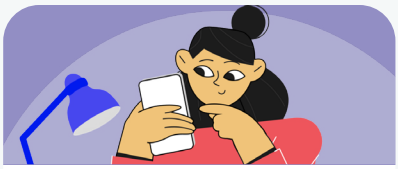


Add this Sharpen overview to your syllabus

Introducing Sharpen, McGraw Hill's exam prep mobile app bundled with your McGraw Hill course materials. Already got your course materials? You can **log into Sharpen today:**



Find the Sharpen launch point in Connect, ALEKS, GO, or your LMS. Click to get started!



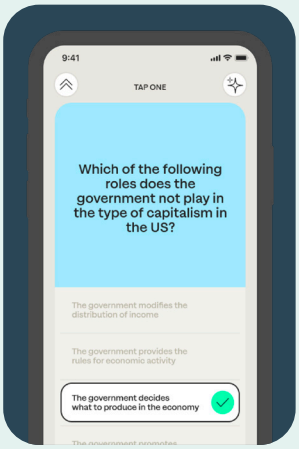
You can download the Sharpen app to your Android or iOS smartphone to access your study content anytime, anywhere.



On your tablet or laptop, you can log into Sharpen web at www.studysharpen.com.

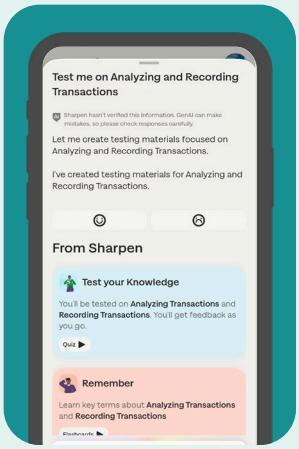
Always sign into Sharpen with the email address you use to access your McGraw Hill learning platforms.

Here's how I recommend you study with Sharpen:



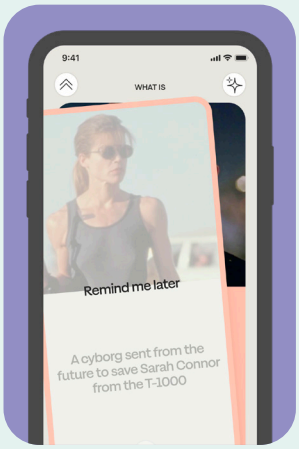
Stressed before the exam?

Spend 10 minutes on **Quiz Bank** to confirm what you know, and check Improve for tips to master concepts you missed.



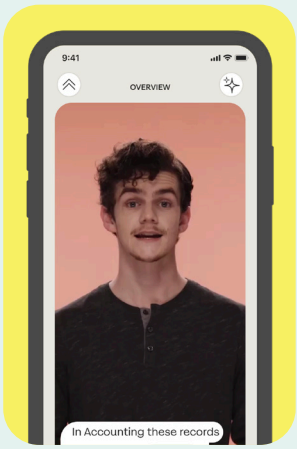
Need help with tough questions?

Prompt **Ask Sharpen** to get concise explanations and study activities on concepts you still need to master.



Have a weekly study window?

Flip through **flashcards** for 5 minutes to test yourself on chapters you covered in class.



Want a refresher before class?

Spend 5 minutes on **summaries and videos** to review key concepts.

First day of class: Send students a Sharpen introduction email

Subject line **Introducing the Sharpen Exam Prep App**

Hi class,

Introducing Sharpen, McGraw Hill's exam prep mobile app! Sharpen gives you a personalized study experience with content aligned to our course. I recommend you study with Sharpen each week. Here's how you can get started.

Next Step: Get your course materials and log into Sharpen!

- Find the Sharpen launch point in Connect, ALEKS, GO, or your LMS. Click and you'll be auto-logged into Sharpen, no password needed.
- Download the Sharpen app to your Android or iOS smartphone to access your study content anytime, anywhere.
- On your tablet or laptop, you can log into Sharpen web at www.studysharpen.com.

Always sign into Sharpen with the email you use to access McGraw Hill learning platforms.

Here's how I recommend you study with Sharpen:

- Prompt Ask Sharpen to explain difficult concepts and spend 10 minutes on study activities it recommends.
- Review Sharpen summaries, videos, and flashcards for 10 minutes to refresh key concepts.
- Take Sharpen quizzes and prompt Ask Sharpen to break down what you don't understand.

Before your first exam: Send students a Sharpen reminder email

Subject line **Reminder: Test Prep with Sharpen**

Hi class,

As midterms get closer, here is a reminder that you have access to Sharpen, McGraw Hill's exam prep mobile app! Sharpen gives you a personalized study experience with content aligned to our course. I recommend you study with Sharpen to prepare for your upcoming exam.

Next Step: if you haven't already, **log into Sharpen and start studying!**

- Find the Sharpen launch point in Connect, ALEKS, GO, or your LMS. Click and you'll be auto-logged into Sharpen, no password needed.
- Download the Sharpen app to your Android or iOS smartphone to study on-the-go.
- On your tablet or computer, log into Sharpen web at www.studysharpen.com.

Always sign in with the email you use to access McGraw Hill learning platforms.

Here's how I recommend you study for midterms with Sharpen:

- Prompt Ask Sharpen to explain difficult concepts and spend 10 minutes on study activities it recommends.
- Review Sharpen summaries, videos, and flashcards for 10 minutes to refresh key concepts.
- Take Sharpen quizzes and prompt Ask Sharpen to break down what you don't understand.

You'll have Sharpen access until the end of this course. But don't wait until the last minute to use it: start today to boost your exam grades!

Before your final exam: Send students a Sharpen reminder email

Subject line **Final Reminder: Use Sharpen to Study for Finals**

Hi class,

As final exams approach, here is your final reminder that you have access to Sharpen, McGraw Hill's exam prep mobile app!

Sharpen gives you a personalized study experience with content aligned to our course. I recommend you study with Sharpen to prepare for your final exam.

Continued ›

Log into Sharpen and start studying!

- Find the Sharpen launch point in Connect, ALEKS, GO, or your LMS. Click and you'll be auto-logged into Sharpen, no password needed.
- Download the Sharpen app to your Android or iOS smartphone to study on-the-go.
- On your tablet or computer, log into Sharpen web at www.studysharpen.com.

Always sign in with the email you use to access McGraw Hill learning platforms.

Here's how I recommend you study for finals with Sharpen:

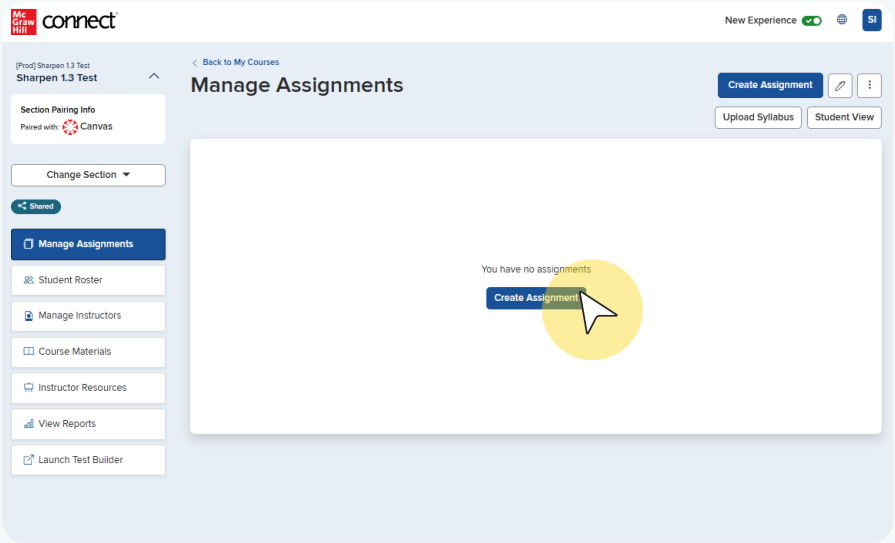
- Prompt Ask Sharpen to explain difficult concepts and spend 10 minutes on study activities it recommends.
- Review Sharpen summaries, videos, and flashcards for 10 minutes to refresh key concepts.
- Take Sharpen quizzes and prompt Ask Sharpen to break down what you don't understand.

Don't wait until the last minute to use it: start today to boost your final exam grades!

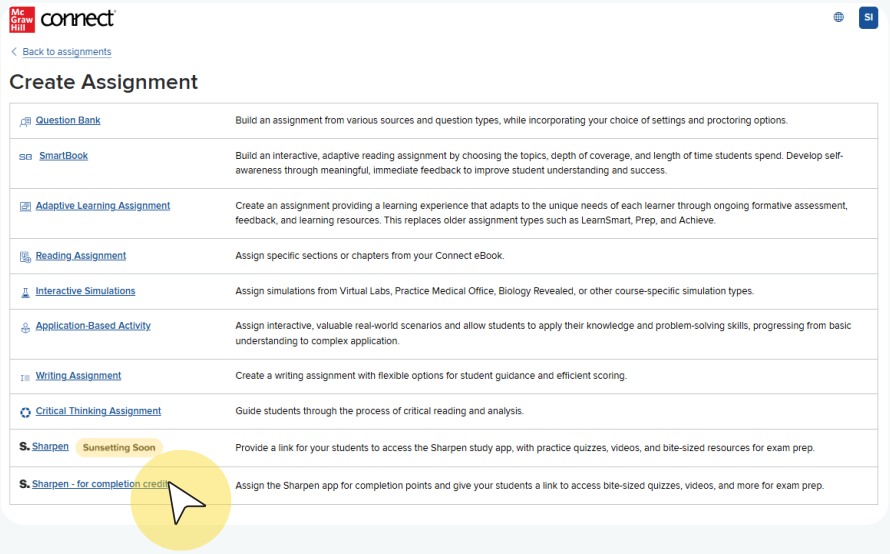
Using McGraw Hill Connect®? Assign Sharpen to Monitor Students' Usage

You can assign Sharpen to your students! This gives them an easy way to launch the app from Connect or their LMS. You'll be able to give points to your students who open Sharpen by this access point and use it to study.

1. First, log in to Connect and enter your course. From your **Manage Assignments** page, click **Create Assignment**.

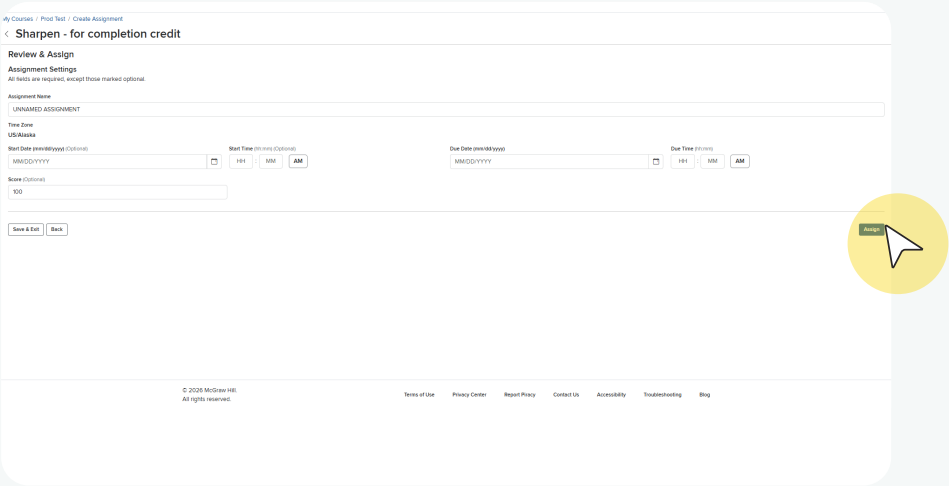


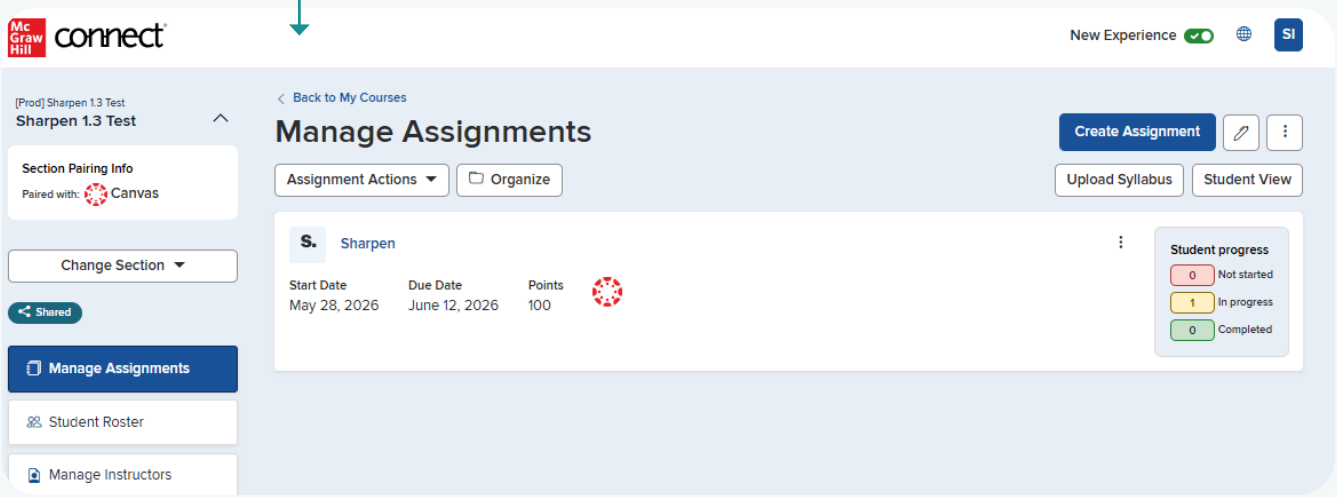
2. Scroll down and click Sharpen- for completion credit.



3. Enter the assignment name, add a start date and due date, and set the number of points you want to give the assignment from 0 to 100.

4. Click Assign and you'll be taken back to your **Manage Assignments** page. You'll see the Sharpen assignment deployed here.





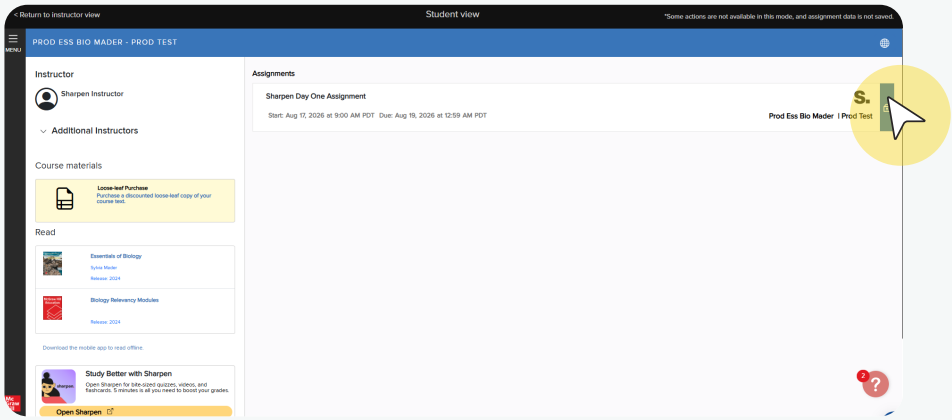
Using a Learning Management System (LMS)?

If you are using a Learning Management System (LMS), make sure your LMS is paired with Connect. Then deploy your Sharpen assignment to the LMS. Once you do, you can add the assignment to different modules.

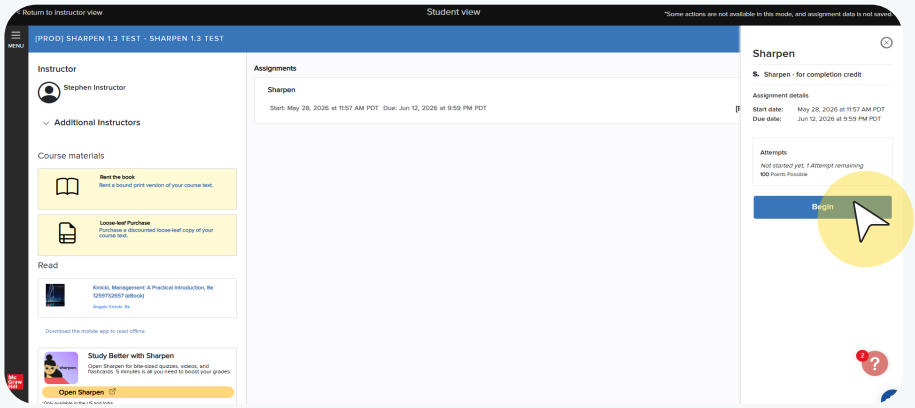
You can create multiple Sharpen assignments with different due dates to encourage students to use Sharpen throughout the semester: for the first week of class, before midterms, and before finals.

Creating the assignment automatically generates a Connect assignment students can use to launch Sharpen. This is what students will see.

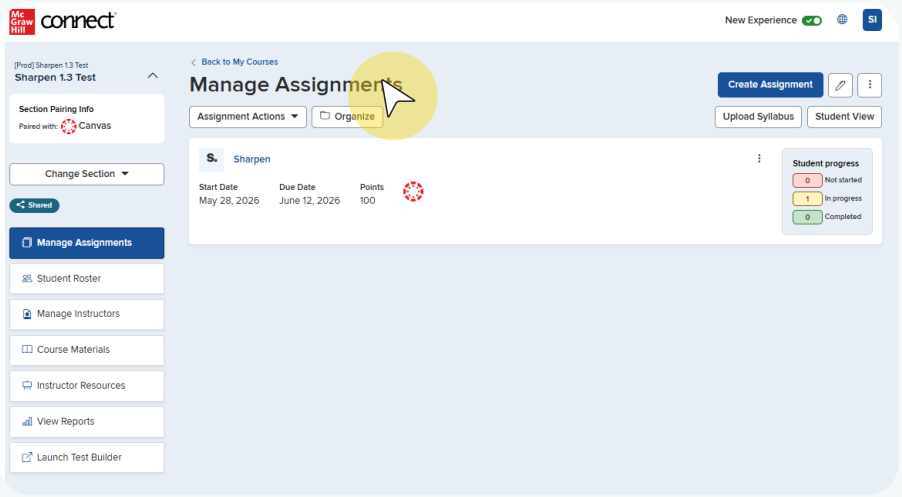
1. Students can click the arrow at right to open the assignment.



2. Then, students click **"Begin"** to launch Sharpen. This way, students can easily access Sharpen and start studying.

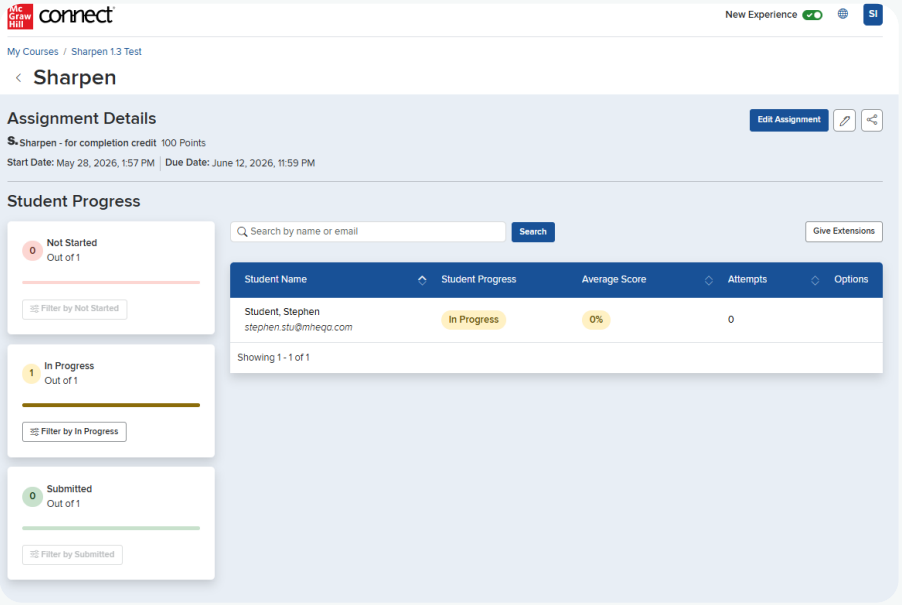


3. From the instructor **Manage Assignments** page, you can see student progress at a glance. Click the assignment link to view specific student progress.



4. At the start of the course, all students will be at “Not Started” status. Students who click the link to launch Sharpen will move to In Progress.”

   To complete the assignment and earn the allotted points, students must launch Sharpen from this access point and complete at least one activity. Once they do so, their progress will update to “Complete.”



You can choose how many points you allot to this assignment. Overall, the assignment is an easy way for you to encourage students to use Sharpen and get data on who uses the app.

Sharpen App Accessibility Overview

The Sharpen platform has been audited against WCAG 2.2 AA accessibility standards and has up to date Accessibility Conformance Reports (ACRs) available as of April 2026. The Sharpen platform is designed and developed with accessibility as a requirement. Accessibilty updates are moving forward to comply with AA standards and the US Department of Justice mandate.

The audit used a combination of methods:

Automated testing tools, manual checks, screen reader testing, and native assistive technology user testing.



Users without vision or with limited vision

Sharpen provides alternative text, screen reader compatibility, and non-visual interactions. The app is fully usable without color perception and has no flashing content to minimize photosensitive seizure triggers.



Users without hearing or with limited hearing

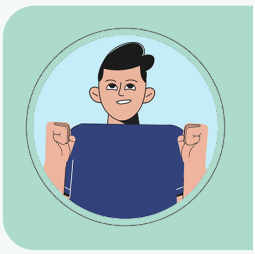
All audio/video content uses captions, transcripts, and other accessibility adaptations. The application does not require speech for use, navigation, or interaction.

Captions are displayed with synchronized audio and positioned to avoid obscuring information. Caption and audio synchronization is maintained across all playback modes and a transcript is provided as an alternative.



Users with limited reach and strength

All functionality is accessible via keyboard-only navigation and works with assistive technologies provided by the browser or operating system. Sharpen does not require fine motor controls or simultaneous actions to use.



Privacy concerns

All privacy controls are accessible with assistive technologies. Users can independently manage privacy settings and use standard privacy controls, such as connecting a headset for private screen reader listening.

Sharpen’s log-in process requires users to enter an email address and a code sent via email for verification. Users are not required to remember or manage passwords.