

Sophia Partnership Guide

Help Your Students Cross the Finish Line with Sophia

At Sophia, we believe that personal and professional advancement should be affordable and accessible to students at every stage of their professional career.

Partnering with Sophia means more intentional collaboration in support of your students. We help all types of colleges and universities more meaningfully serve students by providing an alternative way to learn on their own terms. Ultimately, Sophia can help support retention and validate learning that happens outside the classroom.

Our self-paced courses provide students with the flexibility they need to help complete their degrees.



Sophia students are more likely to persist.

86%

Higher rate of **University of Maryland Global Campus** students who successfully completed Sophia courses continued to their fourth term

63%

Over 63% of **Sophia learners** were influenced to enroll in their current or future university based on a university's ability to accept Sophia courses for credit.

55%

Purdue University Global students who successfully completed Sophia courses continued to their fourth term at a 55% higher rate.

Sophia by the Numbers, since 2020:



500K+
Courses
completed



1.5M+
Transfer credits
awarded



\$500M+*
Tuition dollars
saved

*Savings based on average annual tuition at in-state, 4-year institutions, as reported by IPEDS, 2020.

Why Partner with Sophia?

As a Sophia partner, you can:

- Support students on their path to graduation
- Re-engage learners struggling with barriers to educational success
- Provide alternatives for students to aid in persisting through graduation
- Give students flexible, self-paced learning options
- Offer access to 60+ ACE Credit Recommended courses for college transfer credit



How Sophia Works:

01

Students sign up independently or via our partner school landing pages and select a plan.

02

Students begin taking their preferred courses.

03

Upon completion, students have their Sophia transcript sent to their home institution for credit toward their degree.

All courses are completed on the proprietary LMS.

All course materials and assessments are developed by our in-house team for integrated, scaffolded learning and no additional textbooks or resources are needed to succeed in a Sophia course.

All courses are ACE Credit Recommended and renewed every three years.

All learners have 24/7 access to Learning Coach support.



The Steps to Partnering with Sophia

Interested in a partnership? The steps to get started are easy!

Step 1:

Evaluate Sophia Use Cases

Explore how Sophia can help institutions drive new enrollments, support student retention and get them to graduation quickly.

Step 2:

Sign an Articulation Agreement and Map Sophia Courses to Your Courses

Work with our team to start an AA and identify course equivalencies between our catalog of 60+ courses.

Step 3:

Onboard with Dedicated Account Management Team

You will also join the Sophia Partnership network with your peer institutions to appear on the website and give students confidence that you accept ACE-recommended Sophia courses for credits.

Step 4:

Receive Ongoing Support for Your Students

Once the process is complete, students can begin taking courses in 30 days or less. Get your students on the path to the finish line!

Keep in mind that if an unaffiliated Sophia user does not have a preferred college or university in mind, they often sign up for one of our partner institutions after signing up with Sophia.

Become a Sophia Partner

Email our team at newpartnerships@sophia.org





Sophia Partnership FAQs

Still have questions? Learn more about the Sophia Partnership Program.

■ What are the advantages of being a Sophia partner?

Sophia is a partner to your school and your students to support retention, re-engage learners, and support students on their path to success. Sophia provides a way for new and existing students to learn on their own terms and in times of need. Motivated students completing degree bearing courses could mean better retention and more students graduating at your institution.

Our courses are innovative, recommended by the American Council on Education, and attractive to students looking to accelerate success in their degree journey. Sophia users take a course or two with us, then matriculate the credit back to your institution knowing that it fits in their desired program. Services like this are attractive to **net** new students, too—especially those looking to find a home institution.

“In my journey to being successful, at age 54, I am in my sophomore year at JWU earning my bachelor’s of science in Retail Fashion thanks to Sophia Learning.”

- Carolyn M.

“As a mom, full-time employee and student, Sophia has given me the foundation to be successful in a classroom setting. I am forever thankful for this program and its benefits!”

- Eliana G.

How many courses do students usually take with Sophia?

With our monthly subscription model, students can take as many courses as they want with us—up to two at a time. Typically, students take 2-3 courses with us on average, but student use cases and transferability between Sophia and its partner schools may impact average course volume.

How do students find out about Sophia?

Our students come from many avenues, including advisor recommendations, ACE recommendations, and internet searches. However, Sophia’s tremendous popularity comes from its peer-to-peer recommendations. Students who complete Sophia courses rate them 4.7/5 stars and typically share their positive learning experiences with friends, family, and colleagues. Additionally, Sophia’s outcomes research with the nation’s leading universities help showcase our impact across higher ed. And finally, Newsweek Magazine recently named Sophia one of America’s Top Online Learning Providers for 2024. We trust that this recognition will allow us to reach even more students.

Is Sophia accredited?

Sophia is a member of the American Council on Education (ACE) and utilizes their faculty review process as a benchmark for course development. In addition, Sophia courses are approved for DEAC’s “Approved Quality Curriculum (AQC) status.

Sophia is not a Title IV granting institution and does not have regional accreditation, however. Similar to other Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) credit organizations or Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) transfers, Sophia provides rigorous coursework recommended for credit hours by ACE.

Are all of Sophia’s courses designed in the same way?

Sophia offers 60+ courses with a similar user interface. These courses are designed using a problem-based learning model with real-world scenarios.

Each course consists of Challenges and Milestones, Touchstones, or a combination of Milestones and Touchstones, which are as follows:

- **Challenges** are formative assessments with 5-10 multiple-choice questions focused on real-world application of concepts.
- **Milestones** are summative assessments to test master of the concepts taught in the course and consist of 20-30 questions.
- **Touchstones** are project-based or written assessments that help students apply the mastery of concepts to solve a real-world problem. Each Touchstone consists of a project-based deliverable.



What are the technical aspects of partnering with Sophia?

Because Sophia is a learner-driven user platform that exists outside of your institution's system, there is no technical integration or implementation involved in partnering. The most technical component of the partnership is the course mapping, which determines which Sophia courses match with your institution's courses. Institutions are free to make 1:1 course equivalencies, accept Sophia courses as part of general elective curriculum, and/or allow Sophia courses to transfer as free electives. Sophia doesn't put any restrictions on how its credit matriculates to its partner institutions.

As a partner institution, you can choose to have Sophia automatically send transcripts for your student's courses for transfer credits, or elect for students to send them manually.

What's the cost for students?

Sophia uses a subscription model that allows students to take as many courses as they wish within the subscription period (with a limit of two courses at once). Subscriptions are charged directly to the student and start at \$99/month.

How does Sophia help students who struggle?

“Sophia has made my back-to-school journey easier, getting me several steps closer to earning my degree. Adding another program outside of being a single mother, full-time student, and employee sounds stressful and makes completing a degree seem impossible, but Sophia has done the opposite. Because of Sophia, I will have completed all my elective courses at an affordable price and graduated a year early.”

- Nicole H.

Sophia offers multiple support tools to help students who are struggling, including self-paced courses that allow students to grasp the concepts completely without the pressure of a time constraint and strict deadlines. This seems to help students who have difficulty with certain topics.

We also offer a few courses that are specifically designed for students who struggle with specific courses or concepts to ensure their success, not just with the course but with developing tools to succeed in future courses. In our partnership agreement, you can determine how you'll accept credit transfers for courses where students are struggling.

Do you offer developmental level courses?

All of our courses are recommended for credit by ACE, so they are designed to bring students up to the ACE recommended learning level (typically 100–200 undergraduate level). However, Sophia does provide credit recommended developmental courses in Foundations of Statistics and Foundations of English Composition that provide co-remediation in the courses.

Become a Sophia partner

Are you wondering if your school is a good fit for the Sophia Partner Program? Our team would love to chat and discuss the options with you! Reach out at newpartnerships@sophia.org and meet with our partnerships team!

