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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 delivers a solution:



Use the app anywhere

These different formats let students choose how they want to study to get the best results: at home or on-the-go, before class or before the exam. With Sharpen, McGraw Hill offers faculty an engaging, trusted tool they can recommend from a reliable source that will uphold academic integrity.



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, GO, or their LMS. They can also log into Sharpen at <u>studysharpen.com</u> or download the <u>iOS</u> or <u>Android</u> mobile app.



Google Play

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



videos deep-dive into individual concepts. Students can change the video speed and turn the transcript on or off. Summaries giives brief overviews of key concepts. Summaries include visuals and text students can play out loud. Flashcards help students tackle terminology. Students can tap to see definitions, click "next" to move forward, or click "remind me" to review

terms again later.

Quiz Bank is Sharpen's test prep feature. As they complete quizzes they earn awards, see their scores, and get study tips to improve. Guided Solutions offer practice calculations with detailed explanation. This feature is included when applicable for the course (primarily quantitative courses).



Improve shows students' strengths, knowledge gaps, badges for completed activities, and Al-powered study recommendations based on past sessions.



Ask Sharpen is Sharpen's Al study buddy! Students enter questions and Ask Sharpen finds or generates content based on learning objectives related to the student's query. Ask Sharpen prioritizes returns based on the student's knowledge gaps.

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

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

Sharpen is leading McGraw Hill's adoption of AI technologies to meet demand from instructors and students. Sharpen's AI features apply innovative technology to help students meet their learning goals in a structure instructors can trust.



Sharpen's Improve Feature

As students complete activities, Sharpen's Al engine analyzes their progress and recommends study activities to tackle their knowledge gaps. Students receive prompts to complete these activities and improve their Sharpen scores.



Ask Sharpen: the Al Study Buddy \bigcirc

Ask Sharpen allows students to ask open-ended questions and get study recommendations for whatever concepts they want to learn. Ask Sharpen will find or create this content based on learning objectives related to students' queries. Study activities are prioritized based on students' Sharpen scores and knowledge gaps.

This AI engine offers curated, verified McGraw Hill content and recommendations from outside McGraw Hill. Outside recommendations are labeled "unverified" so instructors and students understand the source.

Adopting Sharpen this semester? Here's how to make the most of it

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



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

Once students purchase their study materials, McGraw Hill auto-registers them for Sharpen. That's it- they can get started!

<u>
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Students can access Sharpen from the Sharpen launch point in Connect, GO, or their LMS, or by logging into Sharpen's mobile or web apps.

Here are some tips to make the most of Sharpen:



Recommend Sharpen to Your Students

Introduce students to Sharpen on the first day of class and encourage them to use it for exam prep. McGraw Hill will provide content you can use to explain the app's features. Keep reading for syllabus and email content you can use to introduce Sharpen to your students. Share your study recommendations so they know how to get started with Sharpen and will be ready to ace their exams.



Track Students' Progress

If you've paired Sharpen with Connect, you can "assign" Sharpen to your students to see who has launched Sharpen. You'll be able to see which students have opened Sharpen – and give them extra credit! Keep reading for step-by-step instructions.



Engage Students Throughout the Semester

Before exams, remind students they should study with Sharpen. Its to-the-point tools can boost their grades even if they have just five minutes to study. You can compare Sharpen users' grades to others to see students' progress. $\star \star \star \star \star$

"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

$\star \star \star \star \star$

"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

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 Sharpen to your syllabus

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



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



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



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



Always sign in with your school email address to access your study materials for this course.



Here's how I recommend you study with Sharpen:



Review Sharpen summaries and videos for 5 minutes before class to refresh key concepts



Study Sharpen flashcards for 5 minutes to test yourself on chapters we covered



For exam prep, **spend 10 minutes taking Sharpen quizzes** to confirm what you know and what you need to review

First day of class: Send students a Sharpen introduction email





Midterms: 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 exam prep aligned to our course.

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

- Open Sharpen from the launch points in Connect, GO, or your LMS.
- Download the Sharpen app to your <u>Android</u> or <u>iOS</u> smartphone to study on-the-go.
- On your tablet or computer, log into Sharpen web at www.studysharpen.com.

Always sign in with your school email address to access your study materials for this course.

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

- Start by reviewing Sharpen summaries and videos for 5 minutes to refresh key concepts
- Then study Sharpen flashcards for 5 minutes to test yourself on chapters we covered
- · For exam prep, spend 10 minutes taking Sharpen quizzes to confirm what you know and what you need to review

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!

Finals: Send students a Sharpen reminder email





Always sign in with your school email address to access your study materials for this course.

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

- Review Sharpen summaries and videos for 5 minutes to refresh key concepts
- Study Sharpen flashcards for 5 minutes to test yourself on chapters we covered
- · For exam prep, spend 10 minutes taking Sharpen quizzes to confirm what you know and what you need to review

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

Using Connect? Assign Sharpen to Monitor Students' Usage

If you adopted Sharpen Companion with Connect, you can assign Sharpen to your students to give them an easy way to launch Sharpen from Connect. Then you'll be able to see how many of your students opened Sharpen via Connect.



Scroll down and click Sharpen.

- connect	\oplus
Back to dashboard	
ld assignment	
Question Bank	Create an assignment from end-of-chapter questions, test bank or your own question banks.
SE SmartBook	Create an assignment from the newest version of SmartBook to help students maximize their studying and be better prepared for class.
Reading Assignment	Create a reading assignment from your Connect eBook.
Video Capture	Create your own custom speech assignment using GoReact, including in class and online speeches, self review and peer review with rubrics.
Web Activity	Create an activity with your instructions and web links
File Attachment	Create a manually graded assignment that your students can respond to with an attached file (Word documents, Excel spreadsheets, etc.).
Critical Thinking Assignment	Guide students through the process of critical reading and analysis.
s. <u>Sharpen</u>	Optional launch to Sharpen for students to utilize their Sharpen subscription.
V	

Sharpen Instructor | My account | Help | Sign out Enter an Assignment **Sharpen in Connect** 🚮 connect name and if you want, add a start date and a due date. If you do not Set Up Policies include a start date, it will be automatically set Assignment Name: * Sharpen First Day of Class Assignment to today's date. Start Date: 05/14/2025 12:00am US/Eastern Click "Assign" and you'll be taken back to your Due Date: 07/31/2025 11:59pm US/Eastern Assignments homepage. * Required You'll see the Sharpen assignment deployed Cancel Ass here. connect ۲ SI My Courses | Sharpen in Connect Section Spring 2025 Section 1 ~ Dashboard Assignments Library Performance v Messages To grade Assignments (i) A Student view Add assignment √ Filter ÷ Select all assignments Start - Due Points Student progress S. Sharpen First Day of Class Assignment : May 14, 2025 - July 31, 2025 0 1 0 0

You'll also see the assignment deployed in the Assignment overview section of your Dashboard.

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Assignment overview		Add assignment	Section users	Manage users
Viewing: 1 of 1 assignment		Sorted by: due date	Name Role Sharpen Instructor	
s. Sharpen First Day of Class Assignment			Section registration link (i)	
Start - Due May 14, 2025 - July 31, 2025	Points O	1 0 0	If pairing with an LMS, do not use the link. <u>Visit the student instructions page</u>	section registration

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 Connect 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.



Then, click "Begin" to launch Sharpen in a new window. This way, students can access Sharpen with one click and start studying.



You can click on the assignment to open it and view student progress.

Assignment overview		View all Add assignment
Viewing: 1 of 1 assignment		Sorted by: due date
S. Sharpen First Day of Class Assignmen	2	
Start - Due	Points	Student progress
May 14, 2025 - July 31, 2025	0	

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."

If you do not set a Due Date, students who launched the Sharpen assignment will move to "Completed" at the end of the course. Students who never launched Sharpen will be left in the "Not Started" status.

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1 student(s) not started	
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Points are not allotted to this Sharpen "assignment" in Connect and student progress is not recorded in your instructor reports. Overall, this assignment is an easy way for you to encourage student engagement with Sharpen and to see how many of your students have launched Sharpen via Connect.



Sharpen App Accessibility Overview

Sharpen's web app has passed third-party technical accessibility evaluations designed to validate the overall user experience. We are sharing a summary of the evaluation for your reference.



The evaluation 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.