

# Microsoft licensing agreements comparison for academic organizations

Microsoft offers commitment-based and transactional options for academic institutions that want to purchase Microsoft cloud services, on-premises software, and/or Software Assurance through Microsoft-assisted, partner value-added, or self-service web options. Compare the academic Microsoft licensing agreements below or [compare licensing options for commercial and government](#).

**Microsoft Enrollment for Education Solutions (EES)** is a commitment-based Microsoft Volume Licensing agreement for academic organizations with 1,000 or more users (known as Education Qualified Users) or students that want to license one or more Education Platform Products organization-wide. Student use benefits are available, and Software Assurance is included for some on-premises products.

**Microsoft Open Value Subscription for Education Solutions (OVS-ES)** is a commitment-based Microsoft Volume Licensing agreement for academic organizations with 5 to 999 full-time employees or students that want to license one or more desktop platform product or platform cloud service organization-wide. Software Assurance is included and student use benefits are available.

**Microsoft Select Plus for Academic** is a transactional Microsoft Volume Licensing agreement for academic organizations with 250 or more users/devices that want to license on-premises software only with no organization-wide commitment and improved asset management for affiliates and departments. Software Assurance is optional.

**Microsoft Open License for Academic** is a transactional Microsoft Volume Licensing agreement for academic organizations with 5 to 499 users/devices that want to license Microsoft cloud services and/or on-premises software. Software Assurance is optional.

The **Microsoft Cloud Agreement** is a transactional licensing agreement for academic institutions with one or more users/devices seeking to fully outsource management of their cloud services through a cloud solution provider (CSP). CSPs offer an easy way to license the cloud services you need through the Microsoft Cloud Agreement for

Academic in combination with the value-added services offered by your systems integrator, hosting partner, or born-in-the-cloud reseller partner. On-premises software and Software Assurance aren't available through the Microsoft Cloud Agreement for Academic. Student use benefits are available.

The [Microsoft Online Subscription Agreement](#) is a transactional licensing agreement for commercial, government, and academic organizations with one or more users/devices that want to subscribe to, activate, provision, and maintain cloud services seamlessly and directly via the web, through the Microsoft Online Subscription Program. On-premises software and Software Assurance aren't available through the Microsoft Online Subscription Agreement.

# Microsoft academic licensing agreements comparison

	Microsoft EES	Microsoft OVS-ES	Microsoft Select Plus Agreement for Academic	Microsoft Open License for Academic	Microsoft Cloud Agreement (through CSPs)	Microsoft Online Subscription Agreement
Offerings	Commitment-based cloud services	Cloud and on-premises software	Transactional on-premises software only	Transactional cloud services and on-premises software	Transactional cloud services only	Transactional cloud services only
Agreement term	One or three years	One or three years	Non-expiring	Two years	No required term, default one year	One year (auto-renew)
Purchase coverage	Organization-wide	Organization-wide	As needed	As needed	As needed	As needed
Purchase term	One year or three years for initial purchase, co-terminus for additional purchases	One year or three years for initial purchase, co-terminus for additional purchases	Up to three years for Software Assurance	Two years for on-premises software or one year for cloud services	No required term, default one year	One year or monthly on select cloud services
Purchase term expiration	Enrollment expiration	Enrollment expiration	Third affiliate anniversary for Software Assurance	Authorization expiration or subscription term expiration (one year)	Subscription term expiration (one year)	Subscription term expiration (one year or monthly)
Minimum commitment (USL = User Subscription License)	One or more Education Platform Product USLs organization-wide for 1,000+ users	One or more platform cloud services or Desktop Platform Product licenses organization-wide for 5+ FTE or students	500 points per product pool (per year)	Five licenses or L&SA, one USL, or use of Azure pay-as-you-go	One USL or use of Azure Pay-As-You-Go	One USL or use of Azure Pay-As-You-Go
Target organization size	1,000 or more users (Education Qualified Users) or students	5 to 999 FTEs or students	250+ users	5 to 499 users for on-premises software; one+ users for cloud services (up to 300 USLs for Office 365 Business editions)	One+ users	One+ users
Sales model	Partner indirect	Partner indirect	Partner indirect	Partner indirect	Partner indirect	Microsoft direct
Ordering	Prior to use for Education Platform Products	In the month of first use for the initial product order;	As needed (per purchasing account)	As needed (per agreement)	As needed (per CSP)	As needed (per order)

	Microsoft EES	Microsoft OVS-ES	Microsoft Select Plus Agreement for Academic	Microsoft Open License for Academic	Microsoft Cloud Agreement (through CSPs)	Microsoft Online Subscription Agreement
		annually for subsequent orders				
Cloud services User Subscription License (USL)	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
On-premises software license	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Non-perpetual license for on-premises software	✓	✓				
Provisioning of cloud services prior to order						✓
Software Assurance (on-premises products)	✓ (included for some on-premises products)	✓ (included)	✓ (optional)	✓ (optional)		
Academic pricing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ Price set by CSP	✓ (Office 365 only)
Price level determination	Based on user count (Education Qualified User or student count)	Based on FTE employee or student count	Single price level	Single price level	Price set by CSP	Based on order quantity by cloud service
Price protection	✓ (all products and services included in the agreement)	✓ (all products and services included in the agreement)			✓ (cloud services subscription length in 12-month increments)	
Upfront payments	✓ (one to three years)	✓ (one to three years)	✓ (one to three years)	✓ (one to two years)	✓ (monthly)	✓ (monthly or annually)
Annual (spread) payments	✓	✓	✓			
Microsoft Financing (where available)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓