



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 and Open Value Subscription for Education Solutions are for organizations with 5 to 999 users. Open Value Subscription for Education Solutions is a commitment-based 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. Open Value is a transactional agreement for 5-499 users and Software Assurance is included and student use benefits aren't available.

The **Microsoft Customer Agreement** is a transactional licensing agreement for academic institutions with one or more users/devices seeking to acquire cloud services through self-service purchases or fully outsource management of their cloud services through a partner in the Cloud Solution Provider program. Cloud Solution Provider partners offer an easy way to license the cloud services you need in combination with the value-added services offered by your systems integrator, hosting partner, or reseller partner. Student use benefits are available. On-premises software without Software Assurance is also available through partners in the Cloud Solution Provider program.

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 Customer Agreement	Microsoft Online Subscription Agreement
Offerings	Commitment-based cloud services	Cloud services and on-premises software	Transactional on-premises software only	Transactional cloud services and on-premises software through Cloud Solution Provider partner	Transactional cloud services only
Agreement term	One or three years	One or three years	Non-expiring	No required term, default one year	One year (auto-renew)
Purchase coverage	Organization-wide	Organization-wide	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	No required term	One year or monthly on select cloud services
Purchase term expiration	Enrollment expiration	Enrollment expiration	Third affiliate anniversary for Software Assurance	Subscription term expiration (one month or one year)	Subscription term expiration (one month or one year)
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)	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	One+ users	One+ users
Sales model	Partner indirect	Partner indirect	Partner indirect	Partner indirect or Microsoft direct	Microsoft direct
Ordering	Prior to use for Education Platform Products	In the month of first use for the initial product order; annually for subsequent orders	As needed (per purchasing account)	As needed	As needed (per order)
Cloud services User Subscription License (USL)	✓	✓		✓	✓
On-premises software license	✓	✓	✓	✓ through partner only	
Non-perpetual license for on-premises software	✓	✓			
Provisioning of cloud services prior to order					✓

	Microsoft EES	Microsoft OVS-ES	Microsoft Select Plus Agreement for Academic	Microsoft Customer Agreement	Microsoft Online Subscription Agreement
Software Assurance (on-premises products)	✓ (included for some on-premises products)	✓ (included)	✓ (optional)		
Academic pricing	✓	✓	✓	✓ Price set by partner if not self-service	✓ (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	Price set by partner if not self-service	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)	✓ (monthly)	✓ (monthly or annually)
Annual (spread) payments	✓	✓	✓		
Microsoft Financing (where available)	✓	✓	✓		✓

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