



Category

POLICY: 5-32 Instructional Delivery & Modalities

Approval

LT Approved: November 3, 2023
Effective Date:
Revised: October 30, 2023
Responsible Party: Academic Vice Presidents & Dean of ITAS

At WSU Tech an online course is defined as a course in which

- All outcomes/competencies are delivered through online instruction
- All course content must meet the WSU Tech Course Standard
- Referred to as “web-based” on the interactive schedule.

At WSU Tech a hybrid course is defined as a course in which

- Some outcomes/competencies are delivered through online instruction
- Online content is aligned with and supports the face-to-face content
- Face-to-face time is typically reduced, though not eliminated altogether
- All course content must meet the WSU Tech Course Standard
- Course outcomes/competencies are reviewed annually to determine the most effective delivery method (face to face, online or both) for each outcome

At WSU Tech a traditional course is defined as a course in which

- All outcomes/competencies are delivered synchronously, in-person
- All course content must meet the WSU Tech Course Standard

At WSU Tech a competency-based (CBE) course allows students to advance based on mastery of defined outcomes, rather than classroom time (seat-time).



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All WSU Tech class sections are categorized using one of the seven instructional modalities listed below. Instructional modalities provide critical information to students by setting expectations for their learning experiences. Accurate use of instructional modalities also ensures WSU Tech’s ability to reliably report on methods of class delivery.

Program leadership identifies the instructional modality for each class section as part of the year-long scheduling process.

At WSU Tech a competency-based (CBE) course allows students to advance based on mastery of defined outcomes, rather than classroom time (seat-time).

Definitions

Synchronous instruction

Synchronous instruction refers to a method of teaching and learning where students and instructors interact in real-time following a fixed schedule with specific class times. Students and teachers participate in learning activities together at the same time allowing for active discussion, collaboration, and timely feedback. Synchronous instruction also allows for relationship-building between students and with the instructor, fostering classroom community.

Synchronous modalities include:

- Face-to-Face: Scheduled on-site class meetings (previously known as “traditional”)
- Face-to-Face mixed: Scheduled class meetings some on-site and some virtual
- Hyflex: Scheduled class meetings in which students choose to attend on-site or virtual
- Live Online: Scheduled virtual class meetings

Asynchronous instruction

Asynchronous instruction refers to a method of teaching and learning where students engage with course materials and learning activities at various times via the learning management system allowing for convenience and flexibility. Students can access course materials, lectures, assignments, etc. at any time, without having to coordinate with other students or instructors. With no fixed class times, students can engage with the content when it fits their schedule thus promoting self-discipline and time management skills. Attendance is based on quantity and quality of participation in the LMS. It is recommended that students interact with the course virtually no less than 3 times per week.

Asynchronous modalities include:

- Online: No scheduled class meetings

Hybrid instruction

Hybrid instruction refers to a course delivery method that combines both synchronous and asynchronous learning activities which leverages the strengths of synchronous activities like collaboration and community along with the flexibility of asynchronous learning. Students spend less time in the live (on-site and/or virtual) classroom compared to a traditional course allowing more time for asynchronous study. Reduction in seat time: General Education courses have at least 50% online instructional content and technical program courses have at least 25% online instructional content. The goal of hybrid instruction is to provide an engaging learning experience that promotes active participation, relationship building, and flexibility. In addition to attending all scheduled meetings, it is recommended that students interact with the course virtually no less than 2 times per week.

Synchronous and Asynchronous modalities include:

- Live Online Hybrid: A combination of scheduled synchronous virtual meetings with asynchronous online learning in which students are responsible for completing learning activities outside of class meetings.
- Hybrid: A combination of scheduled synchronous face-to-face, on-site meetings with asynchronous online learning in which students are responsible for completing learning activities outside of class meetings. May include scheduled live online virtual meetings in addition to face-to-face, on-site meetings.