Instructional Modality

With the need to create a fully online experience beginning for fall 2020, you may have noticed some new terminologies. Understanding the definitions, the offerings, and differences can help you determine how courses are taught.

All formats encourage students to regularly interact and network with instructors and classmates.

Face-to-Face/ Hybrid/Hyflex
Students attend class at a designated time. Face-to-face students will learn from instructors and classmates in person and participate in active learning activities. Hybrid/Hyflex students will learn from the instructor and classmates using both online and in person learning experiences.

Face-to-Face
Assigned location and assigned time on campus

Hybrid/Hyflex
Combination of in person and online learning

Synchronous Online
Synchronous learning happens in real time. This means that students, classmates, and instructors interact in a specific virtual place at a set time. Common methods of synchronous online learning include video conferencing, teleconferencing, live chatting, and live-streamed lectures that must be viewed in real time.

Where/When: Assigned time; Building/Room= SYNC ONLINE
Who: Residential Students
How: Synchronous
Instructional Delivery: Online

Asynchronous Online
Asynchronous learning occurs on the student’s timeline. The course of study, instructor, or program may provide reading materials, lectures for viewing, assignments for completing, and exams for evaluation so long as expected deadlines are met. Common methods of asynchronous online learning include self-guided lesson modules, pre-recorded video content, virtual libraries, lecture notes, and online discussion boards or social media platforms.

Residential Distance
Where/When: Arrange Hours= TBA; Building/Room= ASYNC ONLINE
Who: Residential Students
How: Asynchronous
Instructional Delivery: Online

Non-Residential Online-OL
Where/When: Arrange Hours= TBA; Building/Room= ASYNC ONLINE
Who: Online Students
How: Asynchronous
Instructional Delivery: Non-Residential Online (OL)
Face-to-Face/Hybrid/Hyflex: Face-to-face students will attend class at a designated location and time on campus. Students will learn from instructors and classmates in person and participate in active learning activities. Hybrid/Hyflex learning is the practice of using both online and in-person learning experiences. In a hybrid learning course, for example, students might attend a class taught by an instructor in a traditional classroom setting, while also independently completing online components of the course outside of the classroom. In this case, in-class time may be either replaced or supplemented by online learning experiences, and students would learn about the same topics online as they do in class—i.e., the online and in-person learning experiences would parallel and complement one another.

Example 1: Face-to-Face:

Scheduling Assistant

Example 2: Hybrid/Hyflex:

Scheduling Assistant
Synchronous Online: Instruction and learning occurs at the same time, but not in the same place. Students learn from instructors, colleagues, or peers in real time, but not in person. Students are required to login at a specified time to be able to interact with peers and instructors.

Example 1:

Scheduling Assistant

myPurdue

Asynchronous Online: Residential Distance courses are for on campus students only and Non-Residential Online courses are for online students only. Instruction and learning occur not only in different locations, but also at different times. For example, prerecorded video lessons, email exchanges between teachers and students, online discussion boards, and course-management systems that organize instructional materials and related correspondence would all be considered forms of asynchronous learning.

Example 1: Residential Distance:

Scheduling Assistant

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Example 2: Non-Residential Online:

Scheduling Assistant

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Definitions adapted from https://www.edglossary.org/synchronous-learning/