Definition of Online, Hybrid and Face-to-face Courses

This document provides clear definitions of each and will help students navigate our course offerings in the schedule of classes. Knowing what a course requires is key to student success, and this includes whether the course is a face-to-face course, an online course, or a hybrid course.

Background

Without a clear definition, it has been left to each department to determine whether a course is identified as an online or a hybrid course in the schedule of classes. This has led to inconsistencies. Courses that are primarily conducted online but have required face-to-face meeting(s) have been designated as “online” in some cases and as “hybrid” in others. There have also been cases where a course identified as a face-to-face course in the schedule of classes has been conducted in online format.

A college-wide definition as to what is an online vs. hybrid course is needed, as well as the responsibilities for teaching online, hybrid and face-to-face courses.

WVC Definition of Online, Hybrid and Face-to-Face Courses

Online Course
An online course is defined as any course that is delivered fully online, using Canvas the College LMS. Every online course should be engaged in regular and substantive instructor-initiated interaction using Canvas. Online courses are designated as “Online” in the WVC schedule of classes and other college published materials.

Hybrid Course
A hybrid course is any distance education course that requires students to engage in an on-campus face-to-face meeting of the class, including orientations, scheduled class lectures/meetings, assessments, or other required activities as defined in the course. Any portion of the course that is conducted online shall include regular and substantive instructor-initiated interaction using Canvas. Hybrid courses are designated as “Hybrid” with the required dates and times of attendance noted in the WVC schedule of classes and other college published materials.

Face-to-face Course
A face-to-face course is any course that meets on-campus (or a designated off-campus site) at scheduled days/times as published in the schedule of classes or other college published materials. Instructors may not substitute online instruction for scheduled class meetings.