

AURORA UNIVERSITY

Course Modality Policy

Effective: Immediately

Last Updated: 2/9/22

Responsible University Office: Office of Academic Affairs

Responsible Executive: Vice President for Academic Affairs

Approval: Faculty Senate 5/6/22

Scope: All full-time and part-time faculty; departmental chairs; academic deans.

A. REASON FOR POLICY

The Code of Federal Regulations allow for a variety of forms of academic engagement, both synchronous and asynchronous, which support equitable content delivery and academic rigor, as well as program quality. In general, the code stipulates that academic engagement includes:

Active participation by a student in an instructional activity related to the student's course of study that -

(1) Is defined by the institution in accordance with any applicable requirements of its State or accrediting agency;

(2) Includes, but is not limited to -

(i) Attending a synchronous class, lecture, recitation, or field or laboratory activity, physically or online, where there is an opportunity for interaction between the instructor and students;

(ii) Submitting an academic assignment;

(iii) Taking an assessment or an exam;

(iv) Participating in an interactive tutorial, webinar, or other interactive computer-assisted instruction;

(v) Participating in a study group, group project, or an online discussion that is assigned by the institution; or

(vi) Interacting with an instructor about academic matters

B. POLICY

Three course modalities are recognized at Aurora University: campus-based synchronous courses/experiences, remote synchronous courses/experiences, and online asynchronous courses/experiences.

Synchronous modalities may include online components aiming to enhance learning or substitute for synchronous interactions between instructors and students (reduction in seat time).

Campus-based synchronous courses/experiences: traditional type of courses where all or most of the class meetings take place in a classroom during an established schedule.

Web-Enhanced - A small percent (reduction in seat time less than 25%) of the course delivery and/or interactions between instructor and students may occur online, meaning that web-based tools and/or web-based activities (e.g., online quizzes, online videos) are used to supplement the course. A web-based component that enhances a course does not necessarily reduce synchronous interactions.

Hybrid courses - involve online components that reduce seat time by 25-74%. These online components substitute the traditional synchronous meetings. Hybrid courses should be clearly identified in the course schedule so students are fully aware as they register for a hybrid course. Likewise, the synchronous class meetings, rooms and times should be clearly specified in the course schedule and course syllabus. Courses may be delivered in a hybrid format upon formal written approval by the relevant academic dean.

Remote synchronous courses/experiences: traditional type of courses where all or most of the class meetings take place via the internet during an established synchronous schedule.

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Online asynchronous courses/experiences: Online courses at Aurora University are fully delivered online with the exception of required fieldwork, internship, and clinical requirements, which must take place at approved sites. All asynchronous online courses provide students with routine, scheduled synchronous opportunities for engagement with faculty and other students.

C. DEFINITIONS

D. PROCEDURES

This course modality policy is applied to all courses and locations under the supervision of the university President, Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, and Graduate Affairs Committee.