

New Modality Codes Proposal

OVERVIEW

Based on questions from the system, SBCTC Data Services requested a conversation about a series of new modality codes for the creative responses colleges have developed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. A small group of eLC members, SBCTC staff, and ETAG members got together and developed suggested names and definitions for online and hybrid models based on examples provided by council members. A survey was created based on the draft models and shared with the ELC at their Summer 2020 meeting. The council voted for the committee to continue their work and submit a formal proposal to recommend to the Instruction Commission (IC) and SBCTC.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

As the committee developed the proposal, members kept the following guiding principles in mind:

1. **Usefulness/Accuracy**
Modalities accurately reflect those created by colleges around the state in response to COVID-19 pandemic.
2. **Future Relevance**
Modalities are able to maintain relevance beyond the COVID-19 pandemic.

PROPOSED NEW MODALITY CODES

The committee submits the following Modality Names and Descriptions for purpose of implementation at the state level:

Synchronous Remote

A course where 100% of the class meetings take place synchronously (virtually at specific days and times noted in the class schedule, using internet/web-based tools).

Description

During the Covid-19 crisis, this code is used to indicate courses that were originally scheduled as face-to-face or web-enhanced classes, and moved to a remote, but still scheduled, mode of instruction.

Post-Covid-19, this code refers to courses that are scheduled at specific days and times, but meet virtually, with the ability for all instructors and students to be off-campus, and not in the same physical space as each other.

For example, Psychology 101 in the Synchronous Remote mode meets via a web-based video conference tool daily at 10:00am for 50 minutes.

Blended Remote

A course where a portion of class meetings take place synchronously (virtually, at specific days and times noted in the class schedule, using internet/web-based tools). The remainder of the class instruction is held online asynchronously (without a set time to attend).

Description

During the Covid-19 crisis, this code was used to indicate courses that were originally scheduled as hybrid classes, and moved to a remote, but still scheduled, mode of instruction.

Post-Covid-19, this code refers to courses that include a mix of required real-time interaction at scheduled times of the day and week, and asynchronous online interaction via other instructional systems. Real-time portions of the course meet virtually, with the ability for all instructors and students to be off-campus, and not in the same physical space as each other. The total hours of scheduled sessions is less than the credit-hour requirements dictate, and are replaced with online interaction on a regular, structured basis.

For example, Psychology 101 in the Blended Remote mode meets via a web-based video conference tool. Instead of meeting in real-time for five hours a week, the class meets in real-time for two hours each week. The remainder of instruction is conducted online and asynchronously.

On Campus Lab+ Online

A course where required lab activities occur on-campus at a scheduled time, and all other instruction occurs online asynchronously (without a set time to attend). There are no other required real-time (synchronous) activities other than the labs.

Description

During the Covid-19 crisis, this code was used to indicate classes that met the regulatory requirements for on-campus lab activities, but all other activities occurred asynchronously online via online systems.

Post-Covid-19, this code refers to courses where attendance is required at on-campus labs, but all other activities occur asynchronously online via online systems. Typically, additional online, asynchronous activities would be included as well.

For example, Chemistry 101 in the Lab+ Online mode meets on-campus in a physical chemistry lab for the lab portions of the course. The remaining instruction (e.g. lecture) is conducted online and asynchronously.

On Campus Lab+ Synchronous Remote

A course where required lab activities occur on-campus at a scheduled time, and all other instruction takes place online synchronously (at specific days and times noted in the class schedule, using internet/web-based tools). 100% of non-lab instruction is held online synchronously (virtually at specific days and times noted in the class schedule, using internet/web-based tools).

Description

During the Covid-19 crisis, this code is used to indicate classes that met the regulatory requirements for on-campus lab activities, with other class activities occurring in real-time (synchronously) via internet (web)-based conferences and other online systems.

Post-Covid-19, this code refers to courses where attendance is required at on-campus labs on specific days and times, and remaining instruction is conducted Synchronously. Real-time portions of the course meet virtually, with the ability for all instructors and students to be off-campus, and not in the same physical space as each other.

For example, Chemistry 101 in the Lab+ Synchronous Remote mode meets on-campus in a physical chemistry lab. The remaining instruction is conducted daily at 10:00am for 50 minutes via a web-based video conference tool.

PROPOSED NAMING STRUCTURES FOR DATA SERVICES

The following table outlines the suggested Instruction Mode, Descriptions, and Short Descriptions as required by Data Services for implementation of the new modalities proposed above:

Instruction Mode (2 char)	Description (30 char)	Short Description (10 char)
SR	Synchronous Remote	Synch Rem
BR	Blended Remote	Blend Rem
LO	On-Campus Lab+Online	Lab+Online
LS	On-Campus Lab+ Synch Remote	Lab+Synch

PROPOSED UPDATES TO EXISTING CODES

Though the committee feels that there are some assumptions around the existing definitions of Online and Hybrid Modalities, we surveyed members of the eLearning Council about these definitions. Overall, the council feels that some clarity around these definitions needs to be included in this proposal. The proposed updates are as follows:

Online

Proposed New Definition

A course where all required instruction occurs online asynchronously (without a set time to attend) using web-based tools. There are no required real-time (synchronous) activities. However, the instructor may choose to offer optional synchronous sessions for office hours and other class meetings where attendance is not required. (Proctored exams still allow for this classification).

Hybrid

Current Definition

A course that displaces some, but not all face-to-face class time with web-based tools.

Proposed New Definition

A course where a portion of class meetings take place on campus at specific dates and times noted in the class schedule (attendance required). The remainder of the class instruction is held online asynchronously (without a set time to attend) using web-based tools .

TERMINOLOGY & RESOURCES

The committee would like to offer college staff the following suggestions to include in the communication of these modalities to help faculty, students, and staff better understand them.

Asynchronous

Learning without specified meeting times and days. Instructors provide content, set deadlines, facilitate online discussions, answer questions, grade, give feedback, and facilitate individual and group learning. Students work independently to complete assignments, group projects, quizzes, discussions, and other activities.

Synchronous

Learning that happens in real-time with instructors and students. Students are expected to gather at a specified day and time in a virtual space based on a predictable and scheduled basis.

Coding Tool

This matrix can help staff responsible for course construction more easily determine which modality a course should be coded as.

Modality	Instruction has a Required Face-to-Face Component	Instruction has a Required Online Synchronous Meetings Component	Instruction has an online asynchronous component	Instruction has a required lab/studio component on campus
Face-to-Face	X (100% of expected seat time) Required meeting times communicated in schedule			
Hybrid	X (% determined by the instructor; required meeting times communicated in schedule)		X (% determined by the instructor and delivered via internet/web based tools such as Canvas.)	
Synchronous Remote		X (100% of expected seat time and required meeting times communicated in schedule)		
Blended Remote		X (% determined by the instructor; required meeting times communicated in schedule)	X (% determined by the instructor and delivered via internet/ web based tools such as Canvas)	
On-Campus Lab+Online			X Instruction delivered via internet/web-based tools such as Canvas	X (required on-campus lab times communicated in schedule)
On-Campus Lab+ Synchronous Remote		X (Required meeting times communicated in schedule)		X (required on-campus lab times communicated in schedule)