UW Colleges Senate Policy
Institutional Curricular Policy #107
Courses Using Mediated Instruction

Ratified by the Senate, September 13, 1986, p.6, App.7
Revision Initiated by the Senate, May 7, 1994, p.9, App.15
Revision Adopted by the Senate, Oct. 1, 1994; see May 7, 1994, App. 15
Reorganized and Renumbered March 15, 2002
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UW Colleges Regulations of Courses Using Media Technology as the Primary Instructional Delivery Method

The use of technology, mediated instructional materials, online course delivery, and alternative modes of instruction are an important part of maintaining and expanding UW Colleges academic programs. However, human educational interaction and professional personal instruction shall remain the primary means of fulfilling the UW Colleges mission for most academic programs on campuses, not including the UW Colleges Online Program. To ensure academic quality of courses and programs that rely heavily on technology for instruction, the following regulations shall be observed.

A. Academic departments and standalone academic programs are responsible for overseeing the use of technology and mediated instruction for each course in their curriculum. They determine approved formats for delivering instruction for a particular course, appropriate use of new and existing technologies for teaching and assessing student learning, the role of mediated instructional materials and technology in traditional face-to-face courses, methods for assessing the effectiveness of courses and departmental programs that rely heavily on technology, and the minimum length of a course in relation to its delivery mode.

B. The first time that a campus offers a course in a new delivery format, the appropriate academic departments must review and approve the primary mode of instruction before the campus advertises the course and before students are permitted to enroll in it. Academic departments and programs have the responsibility to assess the effectiveness of courses offered in alternative delivery formats and the authority to restrict or revoke the use of mediated instruction in previously approved courses. Department chairs and program coordinators must inform campus associate deans of any changes to approved modes of instruction for a course. They must also inform the Dean of the UW Colleges Online Program when an online version of a course no longer has departmental approval because of curricular changes or problems with the effectiveness of the course.

C. Faculty and instructional academic staff must receive departmental approval to teach online, blended (hybrid), distance education, and other types of courses in alternative formats that use technology to deliver instruction. Academic departments and programs are responsible for establishing and reviewing the instructor credentials and training required for teaching courses that rely heavily on technology. Campuses and the UW Colleges Online Program may require additional training for faculty and instructional academic staff who receive departmental approval to teach a course in an alternative delivery format.
D. In consultation with department chairs and relevant shared governance committees, the Provost (or Provost’s designee) establishes the process for conducting institutional assessments of a new mode of instruction that relies heavily on technology. Institutional assessments of new delivery formats are separate from departmental assessments of courses and evaluation of instructors’ teaching.

E. All faculty and instructional academic staff who teach in a mediated mode retain the same rights, privileges, and responsibilities as instructors who teach non-mediated classroom courses. Instructors may have additional obligations if they sign contracts and receive compensation for designing and revising courses, developing scalable instructional materials, participating in paid training, or doing other compensated work that is not part of their contractual teaching loads.