

Shifting to Sustainable Distance Learning: Exploring the Hyflex Model

Additional Q&A from Zoom chat

Waubonsee Community College: Adam Schauer

Q: Is it necessary to have an assistant to help with cameras or devices?

A: No, one instructor can handle the technology quite easily. Many instructors will also log into the zoom from their cell phone to be able to monitor the chat well working with students around the room.

Q: What kind of support have instructors needed to learn to teach using the flex model?

A: We run training sessions regularly and have experienced faculty and staff able to assist at all class times.

Q: Do you run flex classes with different enrollment caps than other classes? What is the max number of students you typically do for a flex class?

A: 20 is usually our cap for flex classes.

Q: Is this equipment allowable from ICCB funds? Or would it have to come out of the college's fund?

A: It is allowable, no different then if you use funds to purchase computers...even though it is instructional technology, it is an administrative cost.

Lewis & Clark Community College: Val Harris

Q: Does allowance of "cameras off" result in increased attendance? You may not have data, but just your thoughts...

A: We have only qualitative data, our instructors all agree that it is a matter of equity, dignity, respect and student comfort. Students do not have to worry about how they look, their surroundings, if their children are running around in the background. One instructor said, "there are lots more reasons to give them the freedom to keep their cameras off, more than the reasons for keeping it on." It can also be technological - some students don't have cameras and others may not have the bandwidth that video requires.

Q: With 2 teachers, is it cost effective with the number of students in the class?

A: It is because we have a fairly large number of students who are attending virtually from across our district. It was a concern for me for sure! This answer is a little more complex depending on number of students, setting, etc. We would not have a second teacher in a rural area with a small number of students. Happy to discuss anytime... vharris@lc.edu

Q: Is there a set or goal number of students to have 2 teachers vs 1?

A: Not really. Although I consider us still in a pilot phase and we are still learning what's best, I tend to think of this in a teacher to student ratio of 8ish to 1. So as long as we have 15-16

enrolled, we can justify the second teacher. Our morning class is often closer to 30 or more so it's definitely justified. One of our rural classes of 7-8 does not have a second teacher. She tends to be more of an in person class but offers virtual instruction if needed. Our ESL class runs with one instructor and close to 11 students, not quite enough to add a second instructor. I hope that answer helps. We listen to our instructors and balance out the need for generation.

Triton College: Nathan Rearden and Jacqueline Lynch

Q: About how much does English Discoveries cost?

A: While we'd prefer not to share our exact rate, we can share that the English Discoveries vendor worked with us on bulk pricing, so it was worth the switch from Burlington English, which we were using previously.

To all panelists

Q: I would like to know the level of participation being required to count as attendance, or is simply being logged into the session enough?

Adam Schauer: No, simply being logged in is not enough...participation is required for all of our classes. If a student is not participating, they are referred to our transition specialists for follow-up. If a student continues to not participate, they are removed from the program entirely.

Nathan Rearden: We don't require cameras to be on during class (although it's certainly encouraged), but students are expected to remain engaged synchronously for the entire session. Instructors routinely implement activities that call on students to speak and participate, and can also monitor students' usage of the English Discoveries / Essential Education through usage reports. If an instructor began suspecting that a student was logging into each session and then walking away--for example being consistently non-responsive when directly addressed, the instructor would reach out to the student privately about what might be causing the issue.

Val Harris: If students are present on the Zoom, they are counted present just the same as if they are present in person.