

Shifting to Sustainable Distance Learning: Exploring the Hyflex Model

ICCB Administrators' Meeting

April 5, 2022

11:00-11:50 AM

A dark blue diagonal graphic that starts from the bottom left corner and extends towards the top right corner, covering the lower half of the slide.

What is Hyflex?

Hyflex = Hybrid Flexible

Instruction takes place both in-person & online **simultaneously**.

With A/V enabled classrooms, students have a choice of attending class:

- Face to face at your building OR
- Online via a video-meeting platform like Zoom

Panelists

- Adam Schauer, Dean for Adult Education
Waubonsee Community College, Aurora
- Val Harris, Associate Dean, Adult Education
Lewis & Clark Community College, Godfrey
- Jacqueline Lynch, Dean, Adult Education
Nathan Rearden, Director, AE Faculty &
Instruction
Triton College, River Grove

Please ask questions in the chat.

Panelists will respond as time allows.

Waubonsee Community College Flex Modality



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WHY Flex?

- ★ Ultimate accessibility and flexibility
- ★ Student focused approach
- ★ Highly personalized learning experiences.
- ★ Engaging interactive learning community
- ★ Learning resources available to students 24/7
- ★ Eliminates redundancy of efforts for faculty



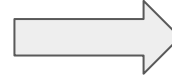
Flex Overview



Scheduled Classroom
(Outlook)



Digital Conferencing
(Zoom Rooms)



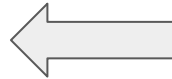
Instruction



LMS
(Canvas)



Captions
(Cielo24/Zoom)



Catalog & Archive
(Kaltura)

WHERE can students connect via Flex?



Students have the **flex**ibility to choose *each* day how they will engage with their learning — in the classroom, via Zoom or online!

- ★ Instruction is delivered face-to-face, so students can connect in-person
- ★ Instruction is simultaneously live streamed via Zoom
- ★ Students can connect from any supported device (phone, PC, tablet, etc.)
- ★ Each class session is recorded, captioned, cataloged, archived, and uploaded to Canvas



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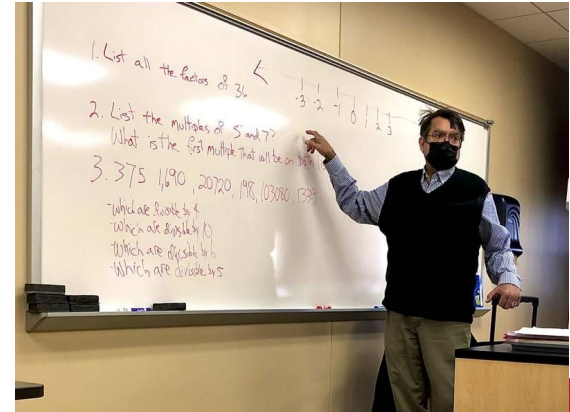


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Currently utilized in:
HSE Math - All levels
HSE Language Arts - ASE High



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Costs:

Aver CAM520 Pro2	\$1,100
Sony 77" UHD 4k TV	\$3,000
Sure ECOSystem Ceiling MicroPhone	\$2,800
Logitech Panel	\$700
Elmo PX-10E HD	\$2,079
HP Pavilion Desktop	\$1,579
Epson Projector	\$500
Labor - (Install, Cables, Misc.)	<u>\$9,000</u>
Total: \$23,758	





HyFlex at Lewis and Clark Community College

Or is it BlendFlex?

“In education, there is a golden triangle of quantity, quality, and equity. You just can’t ignore one while strengthening the others.”

– Sitaram

Yechury

Overview: How does it work at L&C?

- ICCB Innovation Bridge and Transition Program (IBTP) grant in FY 21
- T. Flex Committee comprised of 4 FT instructors and administrators
- IBTP allowed for release time of instructors for planning, piloting
- Piloted Aug-Dec. 2021; fuller implementation began in January, 2022
- Includes synchronous (in person and/or virtual) and asynchronous (IXL or iPathways aligned to what is being taught in class)
- Morning, afternoon, and evening
- Various locations across 1800 square mile district



Technology and Cost

MUST HAVE:

- ❑ OwlCam, Laptop, Second Monitor, White Board (\$2500-3000)

IDEAL:


- ❑ Owl Cam (audio and visual) dynamic camera and microphone
- ❑ Teacher stations with 2 monitors (one for students, one for private chats and other websites)
- ❑ PC with enough power to handle all of the connections
- ❑ Solid internet connection
- ❑ TV or projector/screen for students to see teacher screen (ideally also a 2nd screen to show students)
- ❑ A second station for a second teacher to facilitate online chat, etc
- ❑ Smart device (iPad or phone) to control camera (manual control or on speaker)
- ❑ Document Camera
- ❑ Helpful for in person students to have access to tech (PC, phone, etc) for collaboration between in person and virtual students
- ❑ Pay attention to lighting



Target Students and Curriculum



- ALL students welcome (scaffold for lower level students, provide tutors)
 - Students with really low digital literacy might struggle
- Curricula that we use (definitely on line options or digitize physical resources, will print out for lower level students)
 - Common Lit
 - Science News for students
 - IXL
 - NewsELA
 - iPathways
 - Mockingbird (active learning strategies)



Training of Teachers

- Larger Lewis and Clark CC Institution also doing BlendFlex – our instructors attended training twice in LC's initial BlendFlexed classroom
- IDLL support for one instructor got us linked up with David Rosen and we continue as part of Community of Practice
- Conversation early on with Adam at Waubonsee
- Our teachers figured it out on their own, piloted for a few weeks prior to full launch; created a manual
- Peer training among instructors




Results, Reactions, Retention



- Pilot project conducted August-December, 2021
 - 83 students – 46% virtual, 30% in person, 24% in person and virtual
 - Student survey conducted (42 students completed)
 - Although students choose one mode, >90% report a benefit from having the option and 88% hope it remains
 - 60% felt connected to their classmates that attended in a different mode
 - Over 95% reported being treated equally whether in person or virtual
- Added locations starting in January.
 - Does enrollment in a blended class make it less likely for a student to stop out?
 - So far, NON-blended students are almost 3x more likely to stop out of GED classes (22% vs. 63%).
 - Does enrollment in a blended class make it more likely for a student to earn an NRS gain on a CASAS Goals posttest?
 - Still studying this question and will have clearer answers after full FY of data.



Successes

- ❑ Wider reach with students, especially helped with COVID protocols
 - ❑ Students have access to different teachers, different contexts
 - ❑ Levels the playing field and increases equity
 - ❑ Allowing for new ideas like learning coach for more access
 - ❑ Currently looking at data to learn more
- 




Challenges



- ❑ Staffing, need 2 teachers, teachers need to be trained and have digital literacy skills themselves
- ❑ Scheduling to ensure students have access to all subjects
- ❑ Aligning asynchronous to synchronous learning outcomes is time-consuming
- ❑ Testing - need both remote and in person
- ❑ For remote students, all services need to be offered in remote capacity like pathway advocate, tutoring, etc.
- ❑ Students' internet access can be a challenge especially in rural areas and also the expense of internet can be a barrier



Lessons Learned

- Zoom vs. Blackboard Collaborate
 - One Zoom Link
 - Allow students to have cameras off
 - Expect things to take longer -equipment took forever to arrive (supply chain)
 - Teaching impacts - be mindful of both in person and remote learners and what they see
 - Communication is KEY, listen to instructors and to students!
 - Using multiple learning styles and active engagement strategies are even more vital with HyFlex modes of instruction
 - IT support important
 - “Even with all of the effort, it's worth it.”
- 



Triton College

Adult Education
Department

Developing and Using a HyFlex Model

ICCB Administrators' Meeting. April 2022

About Triton AE's Model



- All classes are synchronous.
- Students register for either in person class OR online class
- Both types of students are combined in HyFlex classes.
- Each day, students have the choice to either come to class in person or join virtually.
- HyFlex Instructors are present in-person for all class periods.
- They teach online and in-person students simultaneously with the aid of a “Meeting Owl” auto-tracking camera.
- www.youtube.com/watch?v=kWVOubkARKw



Technology & Cost



- **Devices**

- Auto-tracking Camera: “Meeting Owl”
- 12 devices, \$850 each, one/classroom
- Worked directly with Owl manufacturer (owllabs.com)

- **Installation**

- Hardware (connectors, locking device)
- Ceiling mount: electrical, IT and AV
- Table mount: AV

- **Consultant: \$1,500**

- HyFlex subcommittee (summer 2021)
- Professional Development Workshop (fall 2021)

- **Pilot Faculty Stipends:**

- \$400-\$500/each
- HyFlex Model Development
- HyFlex Pilot

Target Students & Curriculum



- HyFlex model used in ESL and GED classes
- Curriculum
 - ESL: English Discoveries (englishdiscoveries.net)
 - GED, levels 1-3: Essential Education (www.essentialled.com)
 - GED, level 4: i-Pathways (www.i-pathways.org)
 - Spanish GED: Aztec GED® online Spanish Preparation Series (www.aztecsoftware.com/spanish-series/digital-learning/ged-series)
- LMS: Blackboard
 - Built out with supplemental resources, activities, discussion forums, etc.

Professional Development



HyFlex – the model

- Subcommittee: 5 strong, tech-savvy faculty, Director of Faculty and Instruction, consultant
- Consultant expertise and support to design and pilot our model simultaneously (summer 2021)
- Developed 3-hour pre-semester workshop, delivered in HyFlex format (Aug 2021)
- Shared research, experience teaching HyFlex, activities developed.

OWL Auto-tracking Camera

- OWL demonstration
- Two “drop-in” days for instructors to experiment with Owl Camera (August 2021)
- Ongoing support from HyFlex Subcommittee and consultant (Fall 2021)

Student Reaction



HyFlex: Students liked

- Flexibility.
- Convenience and safety during COVID-19
- “How easy it was to get into class and be able to get started on learning right away”
- “Makes it easy to continue”
- “Pretty useful format”
- English Discoveries.
- The Owl.
- “The organization and structure of the courses and also all the resources that are available to us”

HyFlex: Students didn't like

- Sometimes had technical difficulties.
- Internet stability.
- “That I couldn't hear or see my in-person classmates well”
- “Online students had problems especially during exam and they distracted me”
- “I prefer all students in person”
- Some online students' camera were always off.

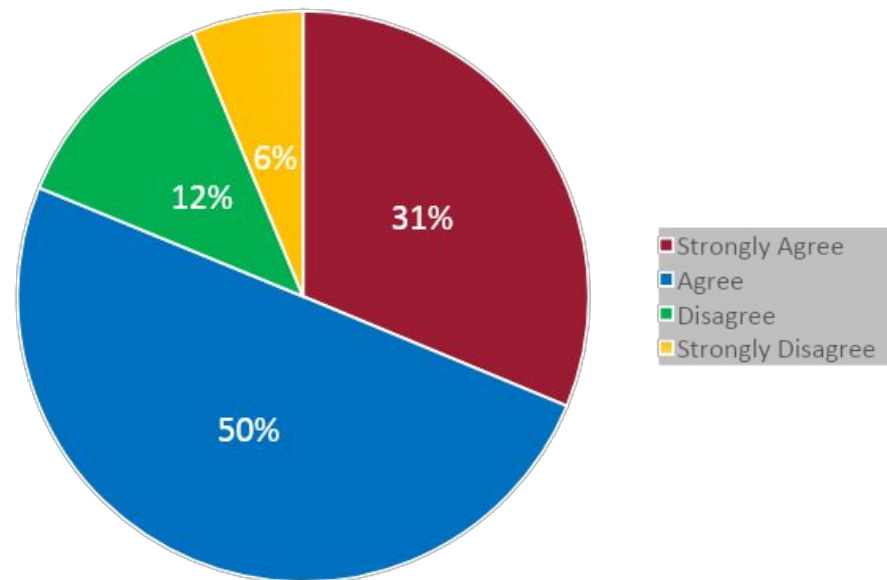
Faculty Reaction



**“Before/After semester,
I felt ___ about teaching HyFlex”**

Reaction	Before	After
Very Positive	18.8%	31.3%
Somewhat Positive	31.3%	50%
Neutral	50%%	0
Somewhat Negative	0	18.8%
Very Negative	0	0

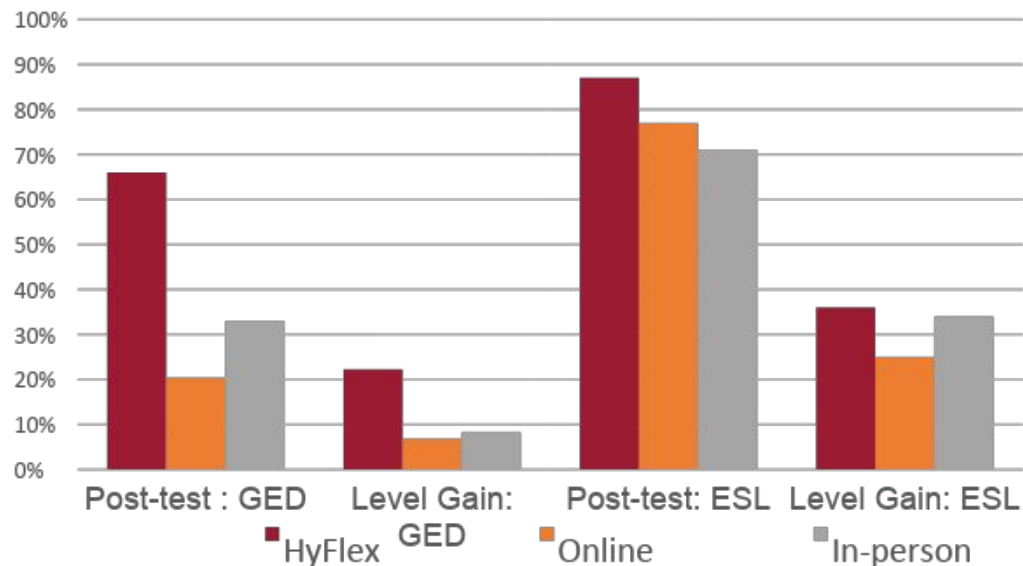
**“The HyFlex format helped me retain
students”**



Successes & Challenges



Post Test & Level Gains



HyFlex: Challenges

- Computer, technology, connectivity issues
- Doing group work
- Monitoring and assessing online students
- Administering exams
- “Talking to my students privately”

Questions

