Online Course Terminology

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The consistent use of terminology concerning online courses and programs is critical for meeting compliance requirements, reporting to accreditors, and providing clear and effective information to students.

Fully Online / No Set Meet Time – an online course where 100%* of the direct faculty-led instruction is delivered in an asynchronous instruction mode. Students do not need to be on campus for any portion of the course work, homework/ independent student preparatory work or evaluation. Instruction and interaction occur through the internet, such as via the University-managed Learning Management System (LMS). Day and time are not listed in the course schedule.

Fully Online / Set Meet Time – an online course where 100%* of the direct faculty-led instruction is delivered online with synchronous instructional meetings required. Students do not need to be on campus for any portion of the course work, homework/ independent student preparatory work or evaluation. Instruction and interaction occur through the internet. Set meetings days and times, such as via the University-managed LMS and online course meeting tools are listed in the course schedule.

Mostly Online – an online course where 80%-99%* of direct faculty instruction and/or evaluation is delivered online, in either synchronous or asynchronous mode. Students are required to be physically present on campus for no more than 20%* of the course contact hours. Most instruction and interaction, as well as most homework or independent student preparatory work, occurs online, such as via the University-managed LMS, utilizing either synchronous or asynchronous instruction modes. Day and time are listed in the course schedule for all synchronous online and/or on-campus meeting times.

Partially Online – a course where direct, instructor-led component and/or assessment is 20% - 79%* online. This classification exists to allow the Faculty to seek approval of course content for potential substantial online instruction and to inform students that a particular course offering will include a substantial online direct instructional component and/or evaluation.

Face-to-Face – a course that is offered with direct faculty-student interaction occurring primarily in-person. May include some online instruction and/or evaluation (not to exceed 20%*).

*The percentage of online and face-to-face instruction is determined by the number of contact hours each method utilizes relative to the number of contact hours for the entire course