



Faculty and Curriculum Development Centre

Online learning: Common definitions of terms

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Online Learning: Common Definitions of Terms

Proportion of Content Delivered Online	Type of Course	Other Terms	Typical Description	At OCAD U
0%	Traditional		Classroom-based teaching with assignments and activities which students pursue independently of each other.	Not applicable to OCAD U, as all courses use CANVAS
1 to 29%	Tech-enabled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face-to-face • In-class 	Web resources and technologies may be used to facilitate what is essentially a face-to-face course. May use Canvas to post syllabi, readings, videos and assignments. Or incorporate web resources and blogs.	All courses at OCAD U have some web facilitated component (outline, online assignment submission, Canvas discussions)
30-79%	Hybrid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web Enhanced • Blended • Flipped 	Course blends online and face-to-face delivery. Substantial parts of the content are delivered online and discussions, team projects and online activities are used for learning. The number of face-to-face sessions is decreased as the volume of online activity increases.	LBST-1001 Global Visual and Material Culture; VISD-3006 Advertising & the Art of Persuasion; SCTM-2008 Introduction to Material Science
80+%	Online	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • e-learning • distance learning 	The online component is typically over 80% of the total delivery. For example, a fully online course may include occasional face-to-face meetings, a proctored exam, etc. with the remainder of the content delivered online.	Master of Design in Inclusive Design; GDES-3094 Creative Practice;; GDES-1014 Colour in Context; VISA-2012 Aboriginal Art History; VISD-2004 History & Evolution of Typography

The other two key terms used extensively when talking about online learning are “synchronous” and “asynchronous.” Here is what these mean:

- **Synchronous learning** – this refers to a learning event or activity in which a group of students are engaging in learning at the same time. For example, students at various

different sites are linked together by audioconferencing, videoconferencing or web conferencing for a class at a particular time. Adobe Connect is OCAD U's preferred method of synchronous online learning.

- **Asynchronous learning** – courses may have a set start date and set due dates for assignments, students can otherwise access and participate in courses at times and places of their own choosing. Asynchronous course may require students to participate online weekly or, in some cases, daily, and include heavy use of online discussion boards to create community. Asynchronous learning does not include live sessions and is the recommended form of online delivery at OCAD University. If live synchronous sessions are needed, it is recommended that they be a limited component of online courses (no more than 25%).

Flipped Classroom

This a type of hybrid course which is growing in use and there are a variety of roots for this idea, but the approach to teaching and learning it represents is straightforward.

1. The flipped classroom is a specific form of blended learning.
2. Instructional content – the knowledge and understanding needed for mastery of the learning for a course - is delivered online not in the classroom.
3. Class time is not used for content, but for exploring the implications of the content or the student's learning. Discussion, lab work based on the content, project-based learning, small group work, using the content to demonstrate a skill or the application of the learning are used in class time to make the learning “real” and meaningful for the students.
4. Assessments are done and submitted online and feedback is delivered online.
5. Students are also encouraged to engage in reflective learning through blogs and social media.

Source: <http://teachonline.ca/tools-trends/how-use-technology-effectively/bewildering-language-online-learning>