

Web-Conferencing as an Instructional Tool

Introduction

Web-conferencing is a way of enhancing your instructor presence in your course, increasing the variety of instructional media types, addressing multiple learning styles, and boosting student engagement. Web-conferencing can include webcam video, audio, screen images, graphical presentations, and text-based chat conversations. Live hosted events (synchronous) can give students the opportunity to interact directly with their instructor and peers, while archived recordings of events (asynchronous) can serve as learning material resources for your course.

Web-conferencing can help you meet Quality Matters Standards:

- General Standard 4.5 – A variety of instructional materials are used in the course.
- General Standard 5.2 - Learning activities provide opportunities for interaction that support active learning.
- General Standard 6.2 – Course tools promote learner engagement and active learning.
- General Standard 6.3 – A variety of technology is used in the course.

Best Practices

Web-Conferencing helps you to:

- Connect with learners through visual, audio, and text
- Provide more personal human presence
- Create learning community in a non-traditional course
- Discuss difficult topics or lessons
- Share expectations about high stakes assessments
- Check for understanding and feedback

Prepare by asking yourself these questions:

- Is it the appropriate technology for your purpose?
- Am I prepared to successfully host a web-based meeting?
- What do I want to present?
- How do I want to engage with students?
- How do I want them to engage with me and/or each other?



Consider these use cases:

- Presenting a lecture
- Host virtual office hours
- Students sharing presentations
- Planning group projects
- Interviewing a guest speaker

Web-Conferencing Tips

- Prepare and plan your presentation.
- Practice hosting before your event.
- Test all media and equipment beforehand.
- Choose quiet location free of interruptions.
- Consider setting & background for video.
- Use participant management tools to check for feedback and engage audience.
- Turn off any email and messaging alert sounds and pop-ups on your computer.
- Speak clearly into the mic and pause occasionally to pace the conversation.
- Use polls to measure understanding.
- Use the chat box to solicit questions and share resources and URL links.

Resources:

<https://distancelearning.louisiana.edu/node/380>