

FAQ: HyFlex at UHD

April 2021

HyFlex pedagogy is new to UHD and we look forward to faculty engagement in learning and defining this opportunity to best meet pedagogical goals and student need in a framework of best practice and in consideration of needed resources and workload.

We have provided some basic information here and the Office of the Provost is working with CTLE, Multi-media, and TTLC leaders to develop additional support in coming weeks.

If you have additional questions, please contact Michelle Moosally at 713-221-8254 or moosallym@uhd.edu.

What does HyFlex refer to?

In the academy generally, the term “HyFlex” was originally coined to describe an instructional approach that allows flexible engagement by students—they can participate in-person, synchronously, or asynchronously. This flexibility is achieved through specific classroom technology set-ups as well as carefully designed pedagogical strategies to encompass the flexible modalities.

At UHD, the term “HyFlex” refers to an instructional approach that allows choice by students between in-person and synchronous electronic engagement in the same class section. At this time, we are *not* considering asynchronous engagement to be an option for these HyFlex classes, though faculty may develop this model further as we move forward with usage.

Are HyFlex classes bigger than regular classes?

At this time (for Fall 2021), students are being asked to *choose* their mode of engagement by registering in separate sections (FTF or online synchronous); this is due to the pandemic. The total combined enrollment should remain at the same as it was for that course prior to the pandemic.

In the long run, UHD will need to determine whether to stay with this model (which means students essentially commit to one modality) or whether we will leverage the flexible model underpinning the original HyFlex model vision--to have a single section registration and students can engage their preferred modality flexibly throughout the semester.

In the academy’s original model, section size is capped at room capacity to allow student choice in how they attend the class. If we retain the current UHD two-section scheduling options, in theory, the in-person section could eventually be capped at the classroom capacity (post-COVID) and more enrollment would be available through the synchronous section, creating potentially larger sections. Such a plan will require faculty to have better understandings of the pedagogical challenges of the flex model to ensure quality experiences for students in the room and via online access. We will also need to consider workload and other logistical issues.

How many HyFlex rooms does UHD have?

In the past year, UHD has built out 17 classrooms across all buildings with technology to implement some new pedagogical engagement strategies. We plan to build a few more before Fall 2021, including at UHDNW. Below is a list of the currently outfitted rooms.

These rooms have monitors, cameras, and microphones to allow students to participate in person or via distance technology (e.g., Zoom or MS Teams). However, non-HyFlex classes may be scheduled in these rooms as well.

| | | |
|------|------|------|
| A626 | A431 | C210 |
| A608 | B333 | C208 |
| A619 | B306 | C225 |
| A622 | B308 | C229 |
| A427 | B117 | N702 |
| A409 | B119 | |

How do I teach in a HyFlex class?

Teaching in a HyFlex class does require faculty to think through and prepare for a new set of engagements, given that you are teaching in-person and remotely (via Zoom) simultaneously. Thus, you will want to have agility and comfort in navigating both environments. Key considerations include 1) ensuring that all class materials are available to remote students as well as in-person students prior to class, 2) identifying ways for all to engage actively in class, and 3) ensuring outcomes can be achieved successfully regardless of modality of engagement. We are working to develop teaching resources for faculty specific to this HyFlex model. For more information at this time, please see the tips sheet from the CTLE.

What kind of technology has been added for HyFlex classes?

- Two podium monitors that allow for overseeing Zoom and using class projection options simultaneously
- Back of room 50” screen for easier viewing of Zoom students
- Front of room 40” screen so students in class can see students in Zoom
- Enhanced speakers and microphones to allow conversation among instructor, in-class students, and Zoom students
- A tracking camera that follows the instructor at the front of the room
- A wide angle camera that allows Zoom students to see in-person classmates

What should I do if I want to teach in a HyFlex room?

You should contact your department chair to discuss which classes would be best suited to UHD’s HyFlex model. It also requires you to be willing to teach in-person in Fall 2021 as well as meet with our multi-media team to learn how to use the technology.

What resources are available for me to learn about HyFlex teaching?

Please see the resource PDF from CTLE—on the back are several online resources. Here are a couple of links as well:

[Hybrid Flexible Class: A Professor’s Guide to Hyflex Teaching](#)

[Teaching a Hybrid-Flexible Course - Hybrid-Flexible Course Design \(edtechbooks.org\)](https://edtechbooks.org)

In all cases when doing research on this model, please keep in mind that “HyFlex” is an evolving concept and at UHD, we are defining it in ways appropriate to our needs and resources.

Can I teach in a HyFlex classroom even if I don’t want to use the HyFlex options?

Yes—right now, we are scheduling classes in these rooms for regular in-person sections to maximize best fits for class sizes. You are not required to set up the in-person and synchronous sections to use the room.

What does a HyFlex classroom look like?

The main difference is in the addition of screens and microphones. The photos below show the screen set ups.



- Two podium monitors that allow for overseeing Zoom and using class projection options simultaneously
- Back of room 50” screen for easier viewing of Zoom students



- Front of room 40" screen so students in class can see students in Zoom

What do remote students see in the classroom?

Students in Zoom will be able to see you in the front of the room (along with whiteboard or screen) and they can also see whatever you choose to screen share. Usually, they can toggle between these views on their end. See screen shot below from a student view:

