FAQ: HyFlex at UHD
August 2022

HyFlex pedagogy is still in development at UHD and we continue to seek 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 as we learn more about this pedagogy and modality for course delivery.

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 2022), students are choosing their primary mode of engagement by registering in separate sections (FTF or online synchronous). The total combined enrollment should remain at the same as it was for that course prior to the pandemic. However, the classrooms may be assigned to fit only the FTF section size.

UHD will soon revisit this scheduling model and consider using the underpinning the original HyFlex model vision--to have a single section registration and students can engage their preferred modality flexibly throughout the semester. At that point, as in the academy's original model, section size is capped at room capacity to allow student choice in how they attend the class. Stay tuned for more conversations around this.

How many HyFlex rooms does UHD have?

In the first year of this technology, UHD built out about 25 classrooms across all buildings with technology to implement some new pedagogical engagement strategies.

For Fall 2022 we are doubling that and updating the technology. On the website, you can find a list of the rooms with the HyFlex technology.

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.

If you are scheduled in a room with the technology but are not teaching a HyFlex section, you are not obligated to use the additional technology options and should not change the modality of your section without conversation with and approval of your department chairperson.

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. We also recognize that our technology, while impressive, is still not maximized for the full HyFlex intent of a type of "360 degree" engagement between students in the classroom and those in Zoom.

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 on the HyFlex website.

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 each of the scheduled class days regardless of student turn-out in person. You also need to 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)

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 will need to schedule regular classes in these rooms for regular in-person sections to maximize best fits for class sizes

If you are scheduled in a room with the technology but are not teaching a HyFlex section, you are not obligated to use the additional technology options and you should not change the modality of your section without conversation with and approval of your department chairperson.
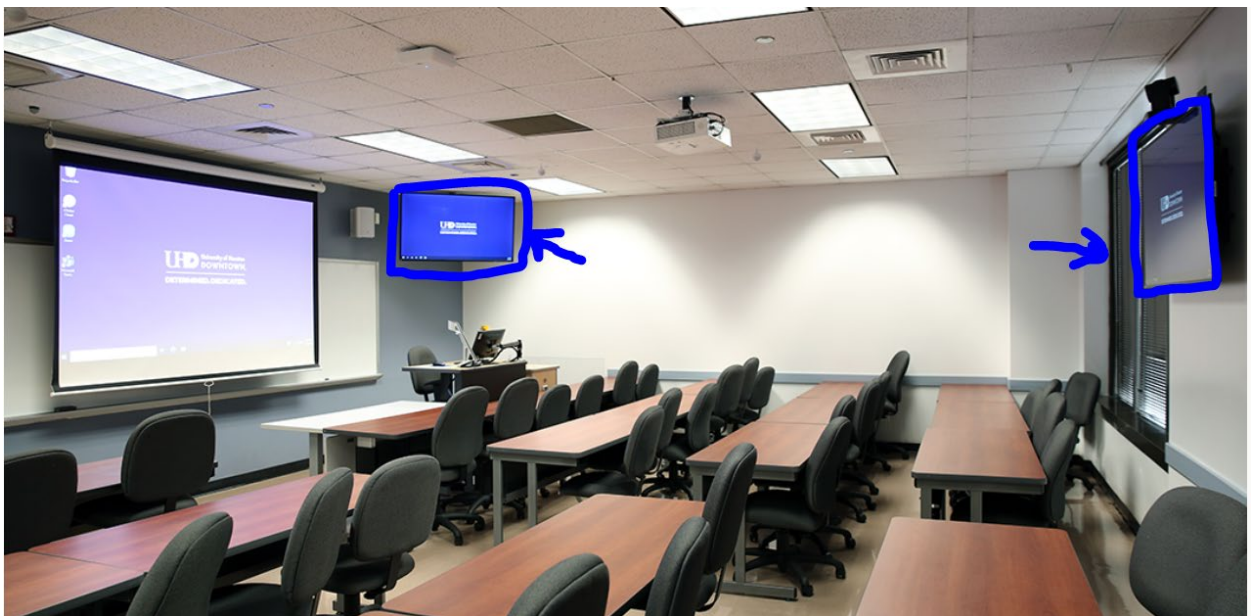
How do I get training on the technology?
Please contact our Multimedia Department at multimedia@uhd.edu

What kind of technology has been added for HyFlex classes?
- A podium monitor and control panel that allow for overseeing Zoom and using class projection options simultaneously
- Back of room 50" screen or larger 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 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.

- Front of room 40" screen so students in class can see students in Zoom
- Back of room 50" screen for easier viewing by faculty of Zoom students

- Control panel to help manage the Zoom and sharing.
- Screen to show what you are doing.

What do remote students see in the classroom?

Students in Zoom should 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. You can choose to show the students in the room instead of yourself also. Usually, the students can toggle between these views on their end. See screen shot below from a student view: