Distance Education Regulations & Modality Definitions

Source: California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Program and Course Approval Handbook (PCAH), 9th Edition

Title IV Regulatory Requirements

Title 5, § 55200–55204 specifies that course quality standards apply to distance education in the same manner as for in-person courses and that each course delivered via distance education provide regular effective contact between instructors and students, and among students.

Title 5, § 55206 states that, "If any portion of the instruction in a new or existing course is to be provided through distance education, an addendum to the official course outline of record shall be required." The addendum is to address "...how course outcomes will be achieved in a distance education mode..." to include meeting regular and effective contact and Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.

These regulations refer to all courses that are developed with the intent that individual classes or sections, or any portion of the course, may be scheduled as distance education instead of traditional, in-person instruction.

Distance Education Course Modalities

- **Online Synchronous:** Distance education courses in which class meetings take place on a predetermined schedule, which include regular and substantive interaction between the instructor and the student, and all students are required to attend class meetings and interact with the instructor and other students through the use of live, interactive technology.
- **Online Asynchronous:** Distance education courses in which there are no scheduled meetings, which include regular and substantive interaction between the instructor and the student, and where students are required to complete class activities and assignments as detailed in the course syllabus by logging into an online system, completing assignments and submitting them to the instructor electronically within timelines specified in the syllabus.
- **Hybrid:** Course sections include any combination of in-person, synchronous online, and/or asynchronous online instruction including regular and substantive

interaction between the instructor and the student. The class schedule specifies how students participate in each class session.

- **HyFlex:** Course sections include any combination of in-person, synchronous online, and/or asynchronous online instruction including regular and substantive interaction between the instructor and the student. Each student determines which modality to participate in for each class session.