

Policy on Asynchronous Course Content - 9U Sections

The following policy is intended to provide guidance to Online Campus programs regarding asynchronous courses and ensure that established and consistent standards are followed for Online Campus programs.

Asynchronous means that the course is offered 100% online and no face to face or synchronous meetings can be required, including the administration of exams. To be considered an Online Campus program, all courses in the program must adhere to this format unless the exception requirements noted below are followed. Individual instructors may not vary from this asynchronous schedule. Online course offerings are identified in the official schedule of classes 9U sections. 9U sections are considered asynchronous.

Policy Exception:

An exception to this policy can be made as long as the student is notified prior to enrollment in the program.

- The program will be responsible for notifying the student (prior to enrollment) and the Online Campus Coordinator if synchronous course sections will be required for the program. Our office will add a note to your program page hosted on our Online Campus website that certain courses may require synchronous attendance (ex: <https://ualr.edu/online/programs/msw/>).
- The program is also responsible for ensuring that there is a note on the course schedule, such as “course has some synchronous sessions as listed in the syllabus.” Chairs or admins can input this note on SSATEXT in Banner.

Recommendations for instructors wishing to offer synchronous course content for programs not falling with the exception listed above:

When the Online Campus launched in 2015, students joined UA Little Rock Online to obtain: 1) a reduced rate for their education and 2) flexibility.

- In order to continue to draw students to the Online Campus, our office has always recommended instructors offer optional (i.e. not mandatory) synchronous course sessions that students can participate in, if they are available (due to work or other responsibilities).

- We also recommend those optional synchronous sessions be recorded and offered as a way to provide accessible content later for students unable to attend an optional synchronous session.
- Justification: Implementation of these two recommendations over the years, have received positive feedback from students in respecting the need for flexibility in their lives as well as the option to sit in a live/synchronous session if available.

Please note that Scholarly Technology and Resources (STaR) is always available to support how to design optional synchronous sessions into an asynchronous course. Please contact them at star@ualr.edu.