Online/Blended Education (OBE)

Fall 2021 "Online/Blended FAQ Lite"*

*APM206 is in the process of revision by Academic Policy & Planning (AP&P) for the Academic Senate to address during Fall 2021; some details are likely to change.

A few preliminaries. Faculty *can best prepare* to submit proposals for your online/blended courses by:

- critically, thoroughly review your plan and refer to the Cal State QLT Rubric (see https://ocs.calstate.edu/rubrics/qlt) for guidance.
  - Make use of the Cal State "Quarry" resource which includes best-practices examples for each of the (necessary) QLT Core 24 standards at https://ocs.calstate.edu/quarry.
  - Make use of Cal State and sister-campuses' materials shared via Canvas Commons (see your Canvas main sidebar menu; Canvas Commons (eighth item in menu, a "C" with a rightward arrow).
    - Search for items authored by "Fresno State" and/or "CSU Online Course Services".
  - Learn from other Canvas LMS users through the "Canvas community" at community.canvaslms.com.
- be certain you are using the University syllabus template or other acceptable, *accessible* layout (see https://www.fresnostate.edu/academics/curriculum/instruction/syllabus.html).
- begin having active, open discussions within your Department, School/College; clearly address the role that online/blended education will play in the respective curriculum.
  - Begin the necessary, formal curriculum processes (including OnBase).
- contact CFE and the Instructional Design team to be better (re)acquainted with "best practices" (email CFE@mail.fresnostate.edu.
  - CFE Instructional Designers are available to offer design, implementation, and technical support to you.
- OBE will <u>not</u> review courses that are not fully built-out in a Canvas development shell (regardless of curriculum process/status).
  - Full term coverage is required (7-, 9-, or 16-week sessions).
  - Changes can be made/recommended; "TBA" is unacceptable.
  - Contact CFE to request a development shell if you need one.

NOTE: The Executive Committee of the Academic Senate decided on April 5,2021 that
"flexible interpretation" of APM 206 *will continue* through **Fall 2021** (see
https://www.fresnostate.edu/academics/senate/documents/APM%20206%20Memo.pdf).

Q: Once a class is approved by the Online/Blended Education subcommittee, is it approved for *any* instructor to teach in that mode?

A: No. The course is the intellectual property of the approved faculty/instructor. IF the faculty/instructor chooses to share the Canvas course with others, written documentation of that permission must be on file with CFE.

Q: Once a class is approved by the Online/Blended Education subcommittee, is it approved *forever*?

A: No, probably not. Extant APM 206 refers to a "five-year review" process; it could change. The dynamic nature of digitally-enhanced education means that faculty/instructors should expect to need to continue learning and training as best-practices and new technologies evolve.

Q: When a course is approved as 100% online, does it have to be offered that way? Or can it be "mostly online", "partly online", or face-to-face?

A: An OBE-approved fully online course can be *scaled back to a lesser online composition* at the point of scheduling but should be offered *as described* during student registrations. It should not be changed unilaterally during a term or session.

Q: Can an Online/Blended Education-approved course be offered at a higher online/blended level?

A: No.