**SET DL Policy: Background and Rationale**

In the Spring of 2022, UWT Faculty Assembly passed [UW Tacoma School’s Hybrid & Distance Learning Teaching policy](https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/sites/default/files/2022-04/Faculty%20Assembly%20Policy%20for%20UW%20Tacoma%20School_Level%20DL%20and%20Hybrid%20Policy.pdf) and charged all Schools with creating their own Digital Learning and Hybrid Policies based on the questions for consideration listed below:

*Modalities*

*a. Which of the three distance learning modalities (asynchronous, synchronous, hybrid),*

*may faculty teach?*

*b. What is the school’s projection for the distribution of its curriculum across four*

*modalities: in-person, asynchronous, synchronous, and hybrid? How will this distribution*

*help the school to achieve student access and success?*

*Required Training for Faculty Certification and Development*

*a. What type of training is required for the faculty to teach in asynchronous, synchronous,*

*or hybrid modalities? If UW Tacoma’s iTech certification is not required, what are the*

*pedagogical reasons for selecting a different training?*

*b. How will the school support the faculty teaching in asynchronous, synchronous, or*

*hybrid modalities for faculty’s continuous development?*

*Assessment Plan*

*a. How will the school assess (course and program assessment, i.e., QM, Tri-Campus*

*Assessment) the curriculum offered in asynchronous, synchronous, or hybrid*

*modalities? The assessment plan should include how frequently courses and programs*

*will be assessed, who will be responsible for the assessment, and what matrices will be used.*

Moreover, the UWT Faculty Assembly policy stated, "School-level policies should align with [UW Scholastic Regulations](https://www.washington.edu/admin/rules/policies/SGP/ScholRegCH115.html) and the definitions of modalities provided by the [Tri-Campus Digital Learning Alliance](https://teaching.washington.edu/about/partnerships/tri-campus-dla/)” rather than the modalities listed in the campus level [Distance Learning & Review Policy](https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/sites/default/files/2021-05/uw_tacoma_dl_designation_and_review_policies.pdf) approved in 2016.

In 2021, student leadership requested more clarity in the time schedule about when and where a course would be delivered. In response, the Tri-Campus Digital Learning Alliance developed and vetted new definitions for in-person, hybrid, synchronous, and asynchronous online courses. UW Tacoma started piloting these new definitions in the Autumn 2022 time schedule. UW Seattle and UW Bothell faculty are invited to join the pilot in Spring 2023. The new modes and their descriptions can be found on the [Registrar's website](https://registrar.washington.edu/classrooms/course-modes/).

As a stopgap for the AY 2022-23, SET created a temporary [Distance Learning Policy for 2022-23](https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/sites/default/files/2022-06/SET%20Distance%20Learning%20Policy.pdf) based on these new modality definitions:

*In-person*

*All required class meetings occur in a physical classroom. The course may also have online content and activities that students engage in outside of class time as homework or study materials. The time schedule contains information about the course’s required weekly physical classroom meeting time.*

*Hybrid*

*Students and instructors regularly interact in both the physical classroom and online. When not meeting in the physical classroom, students and instructors interact online, either through required synchronous sessions or required asynchronous activities. The time schedule contains information about the course’s required weekly physical classroom and synchronous meeting times (e.g., MW 1-2 pm in-person, F 1-2pm on Zoom).*

*Synchronous Online*

*Students and instructors interact online synchronously through regularly scheduled, required meetings using applications such as Zoom. Students should also expect to interact with others and engage in course materials asynchronously. The time schedule contains information about the course’s regular, required synchronous meeting time.*

*Asynchronous Online*

*Students and instructors always interact with others and engage in course materials asynchronously. While there are no regularly-scheduled, required synchronous class meetings, students are expected to meet all assignment deadlines. They may be asked to schedule occasional, brief synchronous one-on-one check-in meetings with the instructors.*