

Approved Blended Teaching Policy

1. Faculty members who wish to teach a blended course are required to clearly articulate the specific pedagogical rationale for offering the course in a blended format. This rationale should provide justification for the course schedule and should also state how the blended modality advances course learning outcomes. This rationale should be submitted to the department chair as part of the department's scheduling process, and shall be shared with the dean.
2. A department is not required to offer courses in a blended format; however, should a department or college choose to offer blended courses, then the department should also offer courses in additional modalities, such as online and face-to-face courses, from which students can choose.
3. Faculty members who wish to teach a blended course are required to provide the weekly schedule of blended classes to the department chair when schedules are due. This could be a percentage (30%, 50%, 75%) of classes that are blended or a weekly schedule (e.g., MW-F2F, Friday Blended). Upon request, these shall be shared with the dean.
4. Faculty members who wish to teach a blended course are required to design the course such that the percentage of class meetings conducted online (either asynchronously or synchronously over Zoom) falls within the 25% - 75% range, as recommended in the blended learning literature.
5. The committee acknowledges that there may occasionally be temporary departures from the course's designated modality (e.g., for the purposes of instructional continuity), but we recommend that faculty notify their department chairs and students when these occur and that these departures be the exception, rather than the rule.
6. Current processes should be used to enforce these rules. The committee also recommends that additional training, such as the three-week online training course previously required of all UMD instructors teaching blended courses, should be required for faculty members who want to list a course as "blended." There are implementation issues here that are beyond the scope of this committee's work.

Note: The following recommendations were made by the Faculty Senate in Spring 23, edited and accepted by the Chancellor later in the Spring and presented back to the Faculty Senate on May 04th, 2023. The Faculty Senate did not pursue further changes.