

MiraCosta College Commitment to Equitable use of Cameras in Online Instruction and Assessment

MiraCosta College adopts a flexible cameras-on approach to synchronous online learning that respects student concerns regarding privacy, access, and equity. MiraCosta College seeks to ensure that no student is disadvantaged because they have to work in a shared or challenging environment, or their technology and/or internet resources are not ideal.

- Cameras should be presumptively optional for live synchronous online classes and faculty must:
 - Consider alternatives to video such as audio and chat participation
 - Encourage the use of virtual and blurred video backgrounds
 - Allow student flexibility to turn off their cameras or mute audio as needed
 - Encourage the use of the text chat feature for participation and discussion

- Cameras may be required in specific course sections to support course curriculum content and objectives, and/or to enhance academic integrity of assessments.
 - If a camera is required to support learning and/or assessment in a scheduled online class, students will be notified of the requirement ahead of time in the Class Notes in SURF as well as on the course syllabus.
 - If a camera is required to support synchronous proctored assessment in an asynchronous online class, students will be notified of the requirement ahead of time in the Class Notes in SURF as well as on the course syllabus.
 - Faculty will require cameras only when necessary, for learning and assessment. The camera requirement notification in the course syllabus should clearly identify the essential need for live video during class time and consider student privacy concerns and technical barriers.
 - When possible, faculty are encouraged to create a confidential opt-out opportunity that allows the student to request an alternative to video participation when possible.

This is the process to require cameras on for online classes:

- Department chairs should work with faculty during scheduling to create a list of classes that will require cameras to be on at some point during the semester. Chairs should ensure that the principles above are followed for all course sections where faculty request a cameras-on requirement.
- Except in unusual circumstances, department chairs should not make all sections of a course require cameras-on to ensure students have a choice and students who can't adhere to the requirements still have course options.
- Department chairs should encourage faculty to learn and use instructional and assessment methods that do not require cameras.
- The class schedule development process will now include department chairs providing a list of cameras-on course sections to the appropriate dean. This will be used to ensure that asynchronous classes with cameras-on proctored assessments receive the correct note in SURF.

This statement is adapted from Palomar College's Cameras-On policy approved by the Palomar Faculty Senate on 2/1/2021.