

Resolution on Flex Modality Training

Whereas in response to the public health COVID-19 crisis SUNY Old Westbury transitioned to remote teaching during the Spring 2020 semester, which has continued through Spring 2021, and

Whereas there is already a Distance Learning Policyⁱ which formally requires that faculty must complete appropriate training offered by the Office of Distance Learning in order to teach their first course in the hybrid/blended modality, and their first course in the online asynchronous (also known as NET) modality, which includes workshops and supervised development of the initial course offering in each modality, and

Whereas the Distance Learning Policy also allows exemptions based on equivalent prior training and experience that faculty may have, and

Whereas the Distance Learning Policy was temporarily suspended for the Spring 2020 through Spring 2021 semesters in regard to hybrid/blended modalities to give faculty flexibility during the public health crisis, and

Whereas the modalities of Remote and Flex were newly added to course modality options in Spring 2021 and Fall 2021, and

Whereas the Resolution to Create the Innovation Laboratory passed by the Faculty Senate on Feb. 19, 2021 established new pathways to fulfill Remote and hybrid/blended training, and

Whereas the Joint Task Force on Distance Learning Policies and Standards has been formed to consider updating Distance Learning Policies, and plans to make some recommendations for more comprehensive and permanent plans after this semester, and

Whereas the Online Institutional Readiness Implementation Plan recommends the college to enhance training for all distance modalities, and

Whereas of all modalities available in Fall 2021, the Flex modality lacks an officially endorsed pathway for obtaining training, despite the fact that the delivery of Flex courses requires mastery of certain software and hardware, and

Whereas Instructional Design Staff already provides an informal training session for the Flex modality but that training is not formalized by any official policy,

Therefore Be It Resolved that an official training pathway for the Flex modality be formally established by Instructional Design Staff and the Office of Distance Learning that is appropriately similar to the pathways which currently exist for other modalities, as well as appropriate exemptions for equivalent previous training (similar to the other modalities), and

Be It Further Resolved that before faculty teach in the Flex modality in Fall 2021 and beyond they shall be required to first complete the Flex training unless Instructional Design Staff and the Office of Distance Learning determines they are exempted by equivalent previous training.

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Joint Task Force on Distance Learning Policies and Standards

Supplementary Materials Attached

- Distance modality definitions document
- Joint Administrative/Faculty Task Force on Distance Learning Policies and Standard charge document
- 2019 Online Institutional Readiness Implementation Plan
- Current Distance Learning Policy document

ⁱ <https://www.oldwestbury.edu/policies/distance-learning-policies>