Defining Synchronous and Asynchronous Schedule Types

Synchronous 'real time'

Synchronous learning happens live, in real time, between faculty and students. Courses typically have a set time in which you must participate each week.

Synchronous courses allow for real-time communication, **providing space for faculty and student-led discussions and interaction.**

Courses with synchronous meetings leverage conferencing tools like **Zoom, WebEx, and Blackboard Collaborate** to host live discussions and supplement content in Blackboard.

Asynchronous 'self-directed'

Asynchronous learning happens when students and faculty collaborate at different times. While there are weekly deadlines, schedules are flexible. Faculty may offer optional virtual lectures and/or office hours.

Asynchronous courses often have a more accommodating schedule for busy students, **providing more time to work at their own pace to form thoughts and opinions.**

Asynchronous courses leverage Blackboard to provide learning materials such as **recorded videos, podcasts, discussion boards, and other tools**.

Schedule Types

When looking at the **course schedule** there are two key items to be aware of before making your final selection: **class time and location**. Be sure to consider the scheduling-type that best fits your needs.

Synchronous courses come in three different schedules: **On-campus, Hybrid, and Synchronous Online**. Attendance during posted times is expected.

- **On-campus** courses meet at a specified time each week in a designated building on campus.
- **Hybrid** courses meet at a specified time; however, lectures are online and on-campus.
- **Synchronous Online** courses meet at a specified time, but do not have in person meetings.

Asynchronous courses only have one scheduling type. These classes are only offered online through Blackboard and do not have any required meeting times.