

Instruction Mode Definitions for Fall/Winter 2021-2022

The uncertainty of the pandemic presents challenges when faced with determining your course delivery plans for Fall 2021/2022. We hope this resource provides guidance on various **instruction modes** and **their definitions**, and **how they are scheduled in MOSAIC** to help clarify expectations of instructors and students. With all options, please know that the MacPherson Institute offers consultation in determining what would work best for your course, you and your students. For further support, please visit [our website](#) or send inquiries to mi@mcmaster.ca.



Synchronous: Synchronous learning is any activity in a course that happens live in real-time, whether in person or online. Use synchronous activities to facilitate student-student and student-instructor interaction and build course community.



Asynchronous: Asynchronous learning is all the other activities in a course that students can complete online, in a self-paced manner, on their own time. Use asynchronous learning for course activities that benefit from students taking time to carefully consider and analyze content and engage in constructive exchanges.

ON

Online Classroom

A learning component that is designed for the online environment. Learning occurs in a **completely asynchronous, self-paced manner** with instructors guiding students through the learning.

V

Virtual Classroom

A learning component that includes **required synchronous elements** delivered through a web conferencing tool (e.g., Zoom, Teams, etc.). Instructors lead a live teaching component (e.g. lecture, tutorial, or lab) using the conferencing tool with questions and discussions in a very similar way to the in person classroom experience.

P

In Person

An **in-classroom** learning component with an assigned physical classroom (some time may be in a classroom space). It is recommended that there is a [remote teaching backup plan](#) for any in-person components in the event that Public Health imposes restrictions before or during the semester.

Instruction Mode	Code	Date/time Scheduled	Classroom Assignment	Synchronous Course Elements	Asynchronous Course Elements	Important Considerations
Virtual Classroom	V	Yes	No	Required	Optional	Any synchronous teaching components must be recorded, captioned and available asynchronously to students.
Online Classroom	ON	No	No	Optional	Required	Office hours and Q&A sessions are examples of optional synchronous course elements.
In Person	P	Yes	Yes	Optional	Optional	In person class offerings are tentative and will be contingent on the direction of public health. Any required synchronous lecture components should be recorded, captioned and available asynchronously to students.

Some Scenarios

1

Course 1A03 has 3 lecture sections (C01 to C03), 6 lab sections (L01 to L06), and 6 tutorial sections (T01 to T06).

- All lecture sessions for sections C01 to C03 are planned to be offered on campus in a physical classroom. The instructor will rotate through the class such that 1/3 of the class attends on Mondays, 1/3 can attend in person on Tuesdays and the other 1/3 can attend on Thursdays. The instructor broadcasts the in-person lecture so that the other students can attend virtually.
- All lab sessions for sections L01 to L06 are planned to be offered on campus in a physical lab.
- All tutorial sessions for sections T01 to T06 are delivered in Zoom / Teams / etc. on the same day at the same time for the entire semester.

For this scenario, the MOSAIC instruction mode assignments would be:

- C01 to C03 – In Person (P)
- L01 to L06 – In Person (P)
- T01 to T06 – Virtual Classrooms (V)

2

Course 1A03 has 2 lecture sections (C01, C02) and 10 tutorial sections (T01 to T10).

- Two of the 50-minute sessions for sections C01 and C02 are delivered in Zoom / Teams / etc. on the same day at the same time for the entire semester. The remaining 50-minute session is delivered as an online module in an LMS (e.g. Avenue to Learn).
- Students will have the choice of signing up for either virtual tutorials (where they will meet with their TA via Zoom or Teams) or in person tutorials (where they will meet with a TA in a room on campus, if permitted by Public Health).

For this scenario, the MOSAIC instruction mode assignments would be:

- C01, C02 – Virtual Classroom (V)
- T01 to T05 – Virtual Classroom (V)
- T06 to T10 – In Person (P)

3

Course 1A03 has 1 lecture section (C01) and 5 tutorial sections (T01 to T05).

- All lecture sessions for section C01 are delivered in Zoom / Teams / etc. on the same day at the same time for the entire semester. Occasionally, learning activities, assessments and discussions will take place online in the LMS (Avenue to Learn). This may occur synchronously on the regularly scheduled day and time or asynchronously.
- All required tutorial sessions for sections T01 to T05 are delivered in Zoom / Teams / etc. on the same day at the same time for the entire semester.

For this scenario, the MOSAIC instruction mode assignments would be:

- C01 – Virtual Classroom (V)
- T01 to T05 – Virtual Classroom (V)

4

Course 1A03 has 2 lecture sections (C01, C02), 6 lab sections (L01 to L06), and 6 tutorial sections (T01 to T06).

- Lecture sessions for section C01 are being planned to be delivered in Zoom/Teams/etc. on the same day at the same time as C02. Lecture sessions for section C02 are planned to be delivered in person for as many students as permitted by Public Health. The instructor is planning on having both in-person and virtual students present during each class and will need to navigate the complexities of hybrid learning.
- All students are required to complete at least one week of labs in person in a physical lab, and the other labs will be available virtually for students to complete remotely.
- Students will have the choice of signing up for either virtual tutorials (where they will meet with their TA via Zoom or Teams) or in person tutorials (where they will meet with a TA in a room on campus, if permitted by Public Health).

For this scenario, the MOSAIC instruction mode assignments would be:

- C01 – Virtual Classroom (V)
- C02 – In Person (P)
- L01 to L06 – In Person (P) *Note that instructors will need to announce how the in-person labs will work and will need to develop a sign-up process in Avenue to Learn to allow students to register for which week they will attend in person.
- T01 to T03 – Virtual Classroom (V)
- T04 to T06 – In Person (P)