

The HyFlex Course Model

An exploratory brief by Lodge McCammon

Background

Wake Tech Faculty are being asked to use the HyFlex course model for some courses starting in the 2020 Fall semester. Many departments and instructors are struggling with how to meet this requirement.

[Here is a short \(95-second\) video overview of the HyFlex course model.](#) This presentation provides a quick, basic explanation of the method including what is required for instructors and how it potentially changes the learning experience for students.

Research

A review of the available research provided insight into the efficacy of the HyFlex model. Key findings:

- As enrollments are projected to drop, this model is a way to consolidate the resulting smaller classes into one class, with a single instructor teaching a HyFlex course, instead of two instructors teaching two different courses.
 - HyFlex courses have been shown to allow institutions to save money by reducing the number of courses and increasing class sizes.
- Students say they prefer seated classes, but over time they tend to choose the asynchronous version. Thus, in HyFlex courses, in-person participation tends to drop over time.
- Many faculty report that, for this model to work, they need to be properly trained and be paid fairly to compensate for the extra work of moderating three modalities within one course. However, there was no evidence that institutions are increasing the pay of faculty members for doing this extra work.
- The most successful HyFlex classrooms have someone assisting the faculty member. These assistants are often called upon to take an active role in in-class sessions, helping the instructor incorporate questions and feedback from remote learners, in real time.
- Creating a successful HyFlex course is difficult and there was no evidence that HyFlex courses improve student achievement/success.

Recommendation

It is possible that some departments and faculty members at Wake Tech may have a higher readiness for adopting this model than others. With this in mind, it would be helpful to send out a [HyFlex Readiness Survey](#). In the survey, each key feature of the HyFlex course model is broken down in order to assess an individual's readiness for each feature. The resulting data would allow us to pin-point the departments and faculty members who would be the obvious first adopters.