

A grayscale background image showing three students in a laboratory setting. They are wearing lab coats and are focused on their work, with one student using a pipette. The image has a dark, textured overlay.

HOW TO TAKE COURSES

MAKING SENSE OF INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

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FSW Course Delivery Methods

In Fall 2020 FSW began offering two new class formats, a.k.a. *instructional methods*, that use a virtual classroom for synchronous remote instruction.

- Traditional
- Blended
- Online
- **Live Online *NEW***
- **Live Flex *NEW***

Handout

Making Sense of FSW's Instructional Methods

FSW offers courses in five different "instructional methods" for you to choose from. Use this guide to identify the instructional method for you and learn how to search the schedule to find classes that match!



How do I search for instructional methods in the class schedule?

1. Navigate to <https://www.fsw.edu/academics/schedule/> and click the button to "Browse Classes"
2. Select the Term you want to search
3. Use the "Advanced Search" option and locate "Instructional Methods"
4. Choose one or more instructional methods and click "Search" or press "Enter"

You have several options to consider.

Online with live instruction in a virtual class (synchronous).

Consider Live Flex or Live Online

A mix of live classes and asynchronous coursework.

Blended Online might be for you

Online with no class meetings (asynchronous).

Online might be for you

TRADITIONAL



In a traditional course you will be expected to meet on an FSW campus on a regular weekly schedule.

LIVE FLEX



In a Live Flex course you choose how you attend each class. You can opt to come to campus for every class, join virtually by Zoom every class, or a mix that fits your needs. The class will always meet together at regularly scheduled times, but some classmates will be attending virtually.

LIVE ONLINE



Live Online courses are a special version of an online course where instruction occurs via Zoom during a regularly scheduled time.

ONLINE



In an FSW Online course all of your instruction and coursework occurs through Canvas and you are not required to attend any scheduled class meetings. Instructors may offer optional synchronous meetings, but not require them.

BLENDED - On Campus



In a Blended course your professor will mix required on campus class meetings with online coursework. The online portion of the course may be live in a virtual Zoom classroom or all asynchronous in Canvas. **All required class meeting dates and times will be posted in the course schedule for you to plan for.**

BLENDED - Online

In an FSW Blended Online course you will meet in a virtual Zoom classroom for some class meetings and also be required to complete coursework delivered online through Canvas. You do not have to come to campus. **All required class meeting dates and times will be posted in the course schedule for you to plan for.**

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TIPS FOR TALKING TO STUDENTS ABOUT “INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS”



- 1. Do not call them *modalities*.**
This term is not familiar to students. You will be met with confused faces.
- 2. Do call them *instructional methods*.**
This is the term used in the class schedule search and they have the option to filter by "instructional method." We can help them by using that language consistently.
- 3. Avoid using *synchronous* or *asynchronous* when possible.**
Instead, simplify the concept and talk about live class sessions (on campus or on Zoom) vs. instruction and coursework that happens all through Canvas. If you are compelled to use these terms, make sure they do know what they mean.
- 4. Introduce them to the "Decision Tree" infographic.**
Walk them through step-by-step to help them pick the method that best fits their learning style and lifestyle.

THANK

YOU

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