

University of Idaho Coeur d'Alene

Class Delivery Method Descriptions

On-line, Hybrid, Elluminate, and Compressed Video

On-line/Hybrid Courses

Introduction: On-line courses at the University of Idaho are set-up so that students can log in to a website (Blackboard) and participate in their class with a fairly flexible schedule. Most instructors of on-line courses have deadlines that students must meet (for example, log in by Friday and submit your quiz, or participate in class discussion boards at least twice per week) rather than specific days/times that a student must be logged in to blackboard. Self-discipline is very important for students in on-line courses as they are not required to attend live class meetings.

Hybrid courses are classes that have an on-line component, but also have scheduled live meetings that are listed on the [class schedule](#).

Blackboard is the name of the University of Idaho's on-line course management system. Blackboard is a secure, web-based application that offers a wide range of instructional tools and capabilities for on-line teaching including learning modules, multimedia, discussions, journals, quizzes, and exams. All you need to access a Blackboard course is a web browser such as Internet Explorer or Mozilla Firefox.

Steps for students registered in UI on-line/hybrid courses:

Before the semester starts –

- Make sure to set up your Blackboard account. New students are requested to follow the [VandalSetup](#) process to create all their accounts (vandailmail, vandalweb, and Blackboard). If you have forgotten your Blackboard account username and password, please contact our office at 208-667-2588.
- Go to the website for Blackboard - www.blackboard.uidaho.edu. Follow the instructions on the page to “setup your computer for Blackboard”. Under the “Student Help” section are instructions for navigating Blackboard, setting up your Blackboard preferences, and Blackboard FAQ's.

On the first day of the semester -

- Most UI instructors email their registered students out via [Vandalmail](#) around the first day of the semester with instructions for participating in their particular online course(s).
 - Log in to Blackboard – www.blackboard.uidaho.edu to see if your instructor has added students to Blackboard yet.
 - If you have issues logging in, or you do not have access to the online course, contact our office at 208-667-2588.
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Elluminate Courses

Elluminate is a real-time (synchronous) virtual classroom. Elluminate courses are accessed via the Internet but they are different than on-line courses offered through Blackboard. The Elluminate course sessions are conducted live so you will be expected to log-in to your Elluminate course on a specific day(s)/time(s) each week. There will be real time interaction between you, the other students, and your instructor.

The Elluminate virtual learning environment enables participants to communicate using two-way audio, a text-based chat window, and an interactive whiteboard. To use the two-way audio capability, your computer will need to be outfitted with speakers and a microphone or you can use a microphone headset (connect the headset into your computer's microphone and headphone jacks).

You will need to download and install the Elluminate software on your computer before you can participate in an Elluminate course. Fortunately, installing the software is very simple.

Steps for students registered in Elluminate courses:

Before the semester starts –

- Go to www.illuminate.com/support to make sure you have the required software to launch Elluminate Live, test your connection, and complete an orientation to Elluminate.

On the first day of the semester –

- Most UI instructors email their registered students out via [Vandalmail](#) around the first day of the semester with instructions for participating in their particular Elluminate course.
 - If you have questions or concerns, contact our office at 208-667-2588.
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Compressed Video Courses Compressed video courses are live classes presented over the University of Idaho's two-way, interactive video system. Classes are held in a video conferencing room at the UI Harbor Center. There are specific meeting days/times for compressed video courses which are listed on the [class schedule](#).

A compressed video class has at least two, if not more, sites participating in the class. Our current compressed video classroom locations include Moscow, Coeur d'Alene, Boise, Idaho Falls, and Twin Falls. While many compressed video classes originate in Moscow, it is possible for a class to originate at any location or even multiple locations. You will be taking the course at the same time as the students in the remote location(s). The instructor of your course will be located at one of the sites. A facilitator will be on hand at each of the compressed video sites to assist with the compressed video technology.

During the class, students at each participating location and the instructor can see each other on video screens and are able to talk to each other with the use of microphones. All of this occurs in real-time. The video and audio signals are digitized and then compressed (hence the name "compressed video") so

they can be transmitted over data lines to the participating locations. The data compression sometimes causes the video signal to appear a little fuzzy. It is not uncommon for the video image to break-up or pixelate for a moment or two when there is a lot of motion in the picture.

There is a slight delay in the transmission and reception of the compressed video signals. As a result, one speaker's comment may occasionally get cut-off by another speaker. If that happens, it is OK to pause and then ask the first speaker to repeat the comment.

During the compressed video class, a video signal from each classroom is always present. Depending on the configuration of your classroom, you may see a picture of the students in your classroom along with the picture of the remote classroom(s). If you are called on to speak in class, the camera may zoom in on you and you may see yourself on the video monitor. When that happens, try not to become too self-conscious about how you look on the TV screen. Keep in mind that most people in the class probably feel the same way (not many people like to see themselves on a TV screen).

The compressed video classroom may seem a little daunting at first. However, once you spend some time with the system you will get more comfortable with the technology. It provides a great opportunity to connect with other teachers and learners from the University of Idaho's main campus and our other branch campuses around the state.