

**Distance Learning Procedure for Academic Online Course Delivery**  
**Center for Academic Technology**  
**Texas A&M University-Kingsville**  
**7.9.2024**

## **I. Introduction**

This procedure, designed to enhance our students' learning experience, establishes a standardized approach to online course delivery at Texas A&M University-Kingsville. It ensures all students' consistent and high-quality learning experiences. The procedure mandates the use of specific platforms for academic online course components:

**Blackboard (powered by Anthology):** For all asynchronous online learning activities, course materials, communication, and assessments.

**Zoom for Education:** For all synchronous virtual video conferencing needs within courses.

## **II. Procedure Statement**

All faculty members delivering courses with online components are required to utilize the following technologies:

### **Blackboard (powered by Anthology):**

Blackboard is the official learning management system (LMS) for all online course content, including syllabi, assignments, lecture materials, discussion forums, and announcements.

Faculty will use Blackboard tools to deliver online lectures, presentations, and other instructional materials.

Online assessments, quizzes, and exams will be administered through Blackboard.

Faculty-student communication will primarily occur through Blackboard messaging tools. The Send Email tool is linked to the official university communication email platform, Microsoft Outlook.

### **Zoom for Education:**

Zoom for Education is the official primary academic platform for synchronous virtual video conferencing sessions within courses.

This may include online lectures, office hours, group meetings, or other collaborative activities.

## **III. Rationale**

**Standardization:** Utilizing a common platform for online learning activities fosters a consistent student experience across academic courses.

**Learning Management System (LMS) Features:** Blackboard offers a comprehensive suite of tools designed for online course management, fostering a more organized and effective learning environment.

**Security:** Blackboard and Zoom for Education offer robust security features to protect student data and privacy.

**Scalability:** These platforms can accommodate a variety of course formats and enrollment sizes.

**Support Services:** The Center for Academic Technology provides comprehensive support services for faculty using Blackboard and Zoom for Education, including training workshops and ongoing technical assistance.

#### **IV. Procedures**

**Faculty Training:** The Center for Academic Technology will offer required training sessions for faculty on effectively using Blackboard and Zoom for Education in their courses.

**Course Development:** Faculty are encouraged to consult with the Center for Academic Technology during course development to ensure optimal utilization of these platforms.

**Technical Support:** The Center for Academic Technology will provide ongoing technical support to faculty for both Blackboard and Zoom for Education.

**Student Support:** Students requiring assistance with

- Blackboard - <https://www.tamuk.edu/academictechnology/index.html>
- Zoom for Education - <https://www.tamuk.edu/zoom/index.html>

**Help Desk:** <https://www.tamuk.edu/academictechnology/support/helpdesk.html>

#### **VI. Revision History**

Procedure ratification date: 7.9.2024

Revision history:

#### **VII. Contact Information**

For questions or concerns regarding this procedure