

WEBCAM USE IN ONLINE CLASSROOM POLICY

In live online classes, there are sound pedagogical reasons to ask students to turn on web cameras during class. Webcams allow teachers to more easily engage with students, monitor their performance, and develop their communication skills. Therefore, the following requirements must be met in each online lesson:

- a. The teacher's web camera must always be turned on for the teacher to be visible to the students.
- b. All students must be encouraged to have their web cameras turned on during all online lessons.

Some students may object to webcam use for equally valid reasons, including privacy and limits on broadband access. For reasons of equity and respect for privacy, teachers should consider making exceptions for students who are unable to turn on their webcams during online classes.

Certain learning goals, exercises, assessments, and instructional practices may also justify an instructor's asking students to turn on their webcams. In these cases, teachers should provide an explanation to the students of why webcams are useful. Teachers should balance instructional needs, academic integrity, and integrity of assessment with student privacy and access to technology.

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