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The Collective Pen



Photo by Jack Perich

Many colleges offer different styles of classes. Some schools focus on the traditional, in-person classes, encouraging students to visit their campus and listen to lectures in the classroom. Other colleges have taken advantage of the need for online classes and center their schools mainly through their online teaching style, like the University of Phoenix. Most higher education institutions are trying to find a blend of online and in-person classes though, especially after the Covid pandemic. It is important that colleges have these different options available because each style offers its own benefits to students.

In-Person classes are the traditional modality that students usually take. This style of teaching offers students

hands-on opportunities as well as face-to-face learning, which a lot of students tend to prefer. Since the instructor is actually in the classroom with the students, it allows the students and professors to develop a connection without the barrier of a screen or distance. Along with connection with faculty, it is a great way for students to start networking. Oftentimes professors have connections with potential business' or internships that the student can find useful if they start networking with their professors.

It also aids students with their focus. By having a lecture they can attend in a set

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place at a set time, it provides individuals with a way to keep on track with the course, instead of it accidentally getting pushed to the side.

Along with these benefits, some degrees, like culinary and medical, require students to have in-person classes. They need to have a physical location that they can practice and by being purely online, it excludes people going into these professions.

However, there are drawbacks to these traditional classrooms. People who commute may not be able to make the long drive from school to their home, leading to expenses in gas and potentially eating out since they cannot go home in between classes. This can also be an issue if a student doesn't have access to transportation to even make it to campus. It can also be hard when students have children they need to take care of or work where schedules can change depending

on the day. It also allows students the opportunity to learn even if they don't have the transportation or means to get to school. Since these classes are online based, all students need to do work is Wi-Fi connection. Online classes are a great choice for people with these different circumstances. While it does not provide an in-person experience that traditional classes offer, it allows students with unique schedules the ability to do the class at their own times. It also gives students the flexibility that is sometimes necessary to do one's best.

A major downside to these classes is the fact that there are no in-person meet ups, which may lead to a disconnect between the students' peers and professors.

A blended option that students may utilize is a hybrid classroom. These classes are somewhere between online and traditional, with remote learning but set zoom meetings for individuals to join. Since there is no set location, commuters don't have to worry about making the

trek to school and back. They can join the zoom link from their home. These classes also provide students with that face to face learning that can be helpful to some individuals. It can also foster that connection between students and their teachers that traditional classrooms have.

Each type of classroom has its own benefits and drawbacks, providing for different students in unique ways. This is why it is important for higher education institutions to provide different modalities for their students. Each individual has their own needs and what works for one of them might not work for another.

In order for colleges to accommodate all of their students, they need to allow their students to have access to these different types of classrooms. With colleges that only have in person classes, they are excluding all those who cannot physically make it to campus for every class period while those who are only online are depriving their students of the rich campus life that can be developed with having traditional classes.



Judge's comments: "You my have taken a while to get to your point but a hybrid approach to classes is a good suggestion. You provide justification for both in and online but then bring it to a good compromise. Nice job."