

Distance Education Committee
Synchronous Learning: Camera Use
Passed Dec 2020

Whereas asynchronous instruction is the preferred mode of online course delivery, but synchronous instruction is used by some instructors to meet discipline-specific requirements; and

Whereas the Distance Education Senate Committee and the Distance Education division provide a list of [participation activities](#) that faculty can use during a live online class session that don't require students to have their video on during the entire class; and

Whereas mandating that students be required to turn on recording of their own image may violate a student's privacy under legislation including, but not limited to [FERPA](#) regulations, students may be uncomfortable displaying their personal space to the class, and students may not want their image captured or recorded due to physical and psychological safety concerns for themselves or families; and

Whereas students might not have reliable Internet access in a private space, devices with video-sharing technology within their household, sufficient bandwidth, and other technological requirements; and

Whereas Santa Monica College's [stated mission](#) is to "serve diverse individuals from local, national, and global communities who are seeking high-quality, affordable undergraduate education" and SMC's [top strategic objective for 2017-2022](#) is to "close the gaps in educational outcomes among student groups" by, among other actions "[maintaining] an innovative, responsive, and inclusive academic environment, curricular programs, learning strategies, and services".

Be it resolved that instructors shall not require students to turn on video recording of their own image in a live online class except in an extremely limited number of courses in which recording of a student's image is integral to meeting and/or assessing the learning objectives and outcomes, student health and safety concerns, and/or professional licensure requirements (e.g. performing arts, communications, kinesiology/PE, etc.), and then, this approach should be used only when absolutely necessary.