

## ACADIA COURSE DELIVERY MODE DEFINITIONS

**Motion from the Faculty Support Committee:** Motion to adopt the MPHEC Delivery Mode Definitions with Institutional Modification for Continuous-Intake Online Learning (Open Acadia Asynchronous Self-Paced Learning) as part of Acadia's institutional framework for Online and Technology-Supported Learning. (L. Wilson Finniss) - *Passed at the November 24, 2025 meeting of Senate*

### Rationale:

The Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) requires all Maritime universities to develop and submit an institutional framework for Online and Technology-Supported Learning with Senate approval by May 2026, aligned with its *Guidelines for Institutional Frameworks for Online and Technology-Supported Learning*. Adopting the MPHEC delivery mode definitions at this stage is an essential first step towards institutional compliance, transparency, and consistency in communication with students, faculty, and external partners. It does not change anything in practice, but it establishes a clear foundation upon which further internal policy and governance updates can be considered by Senate.

A minor modification to the MPHEC definitions is recommended to ensure alignment with the 17<sup>th</sup> Collective Agreement (Article 44), which defines specific course modalities – Intersession, Extension, Continuous-Intake Online, and Scheduled Online – that must be reflected in Acadia's institutional framework. These modalities, particularly for online learning, include provisions related to quality assurance, instructional design standards, and faculty workload that must be preserved alongside MPHEC's regional standards.

Accordingly, the definition of *Online Learning* is subdivided into two categories to reflect Acadia's established institutional practice and collective agreement provisions:

1. **Scheduled Online Learning:** Defined as online courses with a defined start and end date, which may be delivered synchronously or asynchronously; and
2. **Continuous-Intake Online Learning:** Defined as online courses that are self-paced, delivered asynchronously, and allow learners to begin and complete coursework on a flexible schedule.

As Acadia does not have a Senate-approved process for delivery mode change requests, this adoption represents a foundational compliance step. Further work would be required to seek Senate approval for a course or program modality change process beyond what

has already been established for Open Acadia under Article 44 of the 17<sup>th</sup> Collective Agreement, should such work be undertaken.

The MPHEC does not require that universities offer courses or programs in online or mixed modalities. However, because Acadia already offers courses across all modalities identified by MPHEC, it is essential that the University formally adopt these definitions to demonstrate compliance and ensure consistency in how course delivery and the learning experience are described, documented, and supported.

### MPHEC Modality Definitions and Institutional Modifications

<b>MPHEC Delivery Mode Definition</b>	<b>Institutional Course Delivery Mode Definition</b>
<p><b>Online Learning</b> All instruction and interaction is fully online and is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Synchronous</li> <li>• Asynchronous</li> <li>• Both</li> </ul>	<p><b>Scheduled Online Learning</b> Courses delivered fully online with a defined start and end date; may include synchronous and asynchronous components;</p> <p><b>Continuous-Intake Online Learning</b> Courses delivered fully online as self-paced, asynchronous learning with a flexible enrolment and completion date.</p>
<p><b>Hybrid Learning</b> A required combination of online (synchronous or asynchronous) and in-person instruction. All students in a hybrid program are expected to undergo the same combination of online and in-person activities.</p>	<p>Adopt the MPHEC Definition.</p>
<p><b>Hyflex Learning</b> Instruction is available simultaneously online (synchronous and/or asynchronous) and in-person. Students can decide which modality to use to access the program components and can make</p>	<p>Adopt the MPHEC Definition.</p>

that decision on an ongoing basis.	
<b>In-Person Learning</b> All instruction takes place in an in-person setting.	Adopt MPHEC definition.
<b>Synchronous Learning</b> Instruction take place in real-time and requires student presence.	Adopt MPHEC Definition.
<b>Asynchronous Learning</b> Instruction is available for students to access at a time that works best for them.	Adopt MPHEC Definition.

*Tip: The definitions of the delivery modes focus on the instruction. An in-person course or program may also include technology as support both inside and outside of the classroom (e.g., online learning spaces for collaboration, communication, and access to course materials; simulations and virtual laboratories; assistive technology, etc.), but the instruction is provided in person and student presence is required.*