

Proposal for Recoding Classes Currently Implemented as Section OLH

Proposal: Stop using section code OLH. In its place, use section codes AH for students attending in-person at Lummi and VCH for students attending using videoconferencing.

Please see the next page for the rationale and notes for this proposal

Rationale:

1. This proposal does not affect the way in which these classes are taught, only the way classes are coded. Programs and faculty currently offering OLH classes will not lose any flexibility in their pedagogy by making this change. It will, however, make the meaning of the section codes clearer, consistent with established practices, and make data collection more straightforward.
2. The current use of OLH is at odds with the definition of hybrid in the Board approved Credit Hour Policy, which starts with a face-to-face class (either an in-person section code, such as A or NP, or a teleconferencing section code, TC) and adds an asynchronous component (adding an H to the end of the section code). OLH has no clear meaning given the approved definition of hybrid since asynchronous classes (section codes IL, OL, LC, and PC) cannot have asynchronous component added to them.
3. The current use of OLH does not differentiate between students who are attending at the originating site (in-person) and those who are attending at a distance (not in-person), thus making data disaggregation impossible based on section code, as is possible with other section codes.
4. As currently implemented, OLH classes are listed in the OL and IL class schedule, even though students who are attending the OLH class in-person are being treated as if they are in an OL class with an Independent Learning location when they are, in fact, actually attending a face-to-face class at a particular site with hybrid content (Lummi or extended campus site location). With this proposal, the in-person section would be listed in the appropriate site's schedule and the videoconferencing section in the telecourse schedule, just as is currently done with TC classes, thus making it clear that it is available to off-site students.
5. OLH is currently being used for multiple and significantly different purposes. For example, TGBM OLH classes are taught simultaneously in-person and by videoconferencing whereas CSOV OLH classes are delivered place-based and in-person to students local to a site. This makes it impossible to tell which of these different situations is being used from the section code. The originating location of the class cannot be determined either, as is the case with other section codes. For example, a CSOV OLH class delivered from Swinomish has the same section code as another CSOV OLH class delivered from Lummi. In the proposal, the Lummi-based hybrid class requiring some place-based in-person scheduled time would use section AH (or BH, etc.) and the Swinomish-based class would use section code SWH.
6. OLH makes no distinction between classes taught with both an in-person and a videoconferencing delivery and those with only a videoconferencing delivery. With the proposal, if enrollment is too small to offer the in-person component, the in-person section can be canceled, the videoconferencing section continued, and the room space released for other uses. For example, if sections AH and VCH are implemented and AH has low enrollment it can be canceled and VCH can continue to be offered. VCH could also be offered alone in the first place with no AH section (and no room reservation) and the instructor could deliver the class from an office. This gives greater flexibility in scheduling and greater clarity about what is being offered.
7. As it is currently being implemented, OLH classes schedule the full number of hours of a non-hybrid class and use only a part of that time for synchronous student contact. Thus, classrooms are scheduled at times they could be used for other purposes. This is a result of the scheduling process and not an artifact of the section code.

Note: The proposal suggests following the same model as is currently used for hybrid ITV classes, in which the AH section is the parent class for students who are in-person and VCH is the child class for students who are at a distance. Use the site-specific section code for the in-person section if the class originates at another site. For example, use TUH and VCH for the parent and child sections for a class originating from the Tulalip site.