

## **Institute for Energy Studies Modality Policy (Approved 11/15/2022)**

The expectation of the Institute for Energy Studies is that all courses offered during each academic year should be available in a face-to-face (F2F) modality, supporting the character of the residential experience at Western Washington University.

Alternative modalities will be considered if doing so is in the best interest of students and the course can be effectively taught in that modality.<sup>1</sup> Standard examples of courses that could be taught in an online or hybrid modality include:

- Summer courses
- Hybrid or Online OCE courses that are complementary to F2F courses where the OCE online or hybrid course will expand access for students on and off campus. Sufficient seats should be available in these F2F sections so that students do not feel that taking the hybrid/online version is necessary to avoid delays in their graduation date.
- Tenured and tenure-track faculty with approved medical waivers for teaching online or hybrid

IES courses could also be temporarily offered in online or hybrid modalities due to:

- Temporary modality changes to address faculty leave (e.g. sabbatical, parental, course buyouts) or emergency situations in cases where no suitable local instructor can be found
- Innovative courses that could only be offered by NTT instructors located elsewhere

Additional justifications for teaching in online or hybrid modalities could be considered; these justifications must be fundamentally based on what is in the best interests of students, not instructor convenience. Furthermore, the decision to offer IES classes in online or hybrid modalities and the specific scheduling decisions should not be made with revenue motivations in mind.

IES' bachelor's degrees will be primarily or exclusively obtained via F2F instruction and it is expected that less than 50% of credits will be able to be obtained by remote modalities. It is possible that some IES minors and certificates will be able to be obtained with over half of the credits taken in a remote modality.

IES policies and procedures regarding course modality will not be in violation of the policies and procedures of WWU, CUP and the Collective Bargaining Agreement and the policies stated here may be superseded by these other policies.

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<sup>1</sup> IES understands that some courses and programs are more amenable to online education than others. For example, courses with lab components will be more difficult to satisfactorily administer via remote modalities.