MRU Statement on the Use of Web Cameras in Online Classes

The use of Web cameras is one tool to increase (virtual) face-to-face interaction during online classes or exams. Many instructors have found this to be an effective method to promote engagement and dialogue for synchronous course activities.

**Although Web cameras can enhance the online learning experience, their use cannot be made mandatory by MRU instructors.**

There are many reasons why the mandatory use of Web cameras is problematic, including:

- lack of access to adequate internet bandwidth or wifi stability
- students not having a web camera
- privacy concerns related to having visual access to a student’s location or environment (space shaming, illegal activity, the monitoring of personal computers, etc.)
- privacy issues related to the potential recording, and sharing, of classes
- anxiety and stress created in some students around feeling that everyone is looking at them
- difficulties in interpreting face-only nonverbal communication
- students may have to be multitasking (e.g., childcare) during classes
- may be counter to some education accommodation requirements
- not specified as a requirement in the course syllabus

*This communication is not intended to discourage the use of web cameras, but to clarify that their use shall not be made mandatory.* The ADC resources available at [Preparing for Online Delivery](#) include best practices for synchronous course delivery and guidelines for alternative approaches.