

Remote Learning and SUNY

With its broad range of programs spread across 64 campuses, SUNY is at the forefront of university systems with a diverse population and broad community. **Microsoft Teams** is already well placed to help with SUNY's strategic goals of integrated experience and enhanced information security. As communities are now forced to self-quarantine due to the threat of coronavirus, Microsoft Teams can also provide the world-class remote learning solution that SUNY needs. Microsoft Teams is not just a remote learning solution for today's academic continuity needs, but a key investment and tool to meet the long term challenges of [enabling education transformation](#).

Meeting Online

Remote learning can be isolating. Simple lecture capture has been shown to have lower student engagement and outcomes than live and participatory events. Microsoft Teams provides video conferencing and presentation capabilities that allow for online lectures, lecture capture, group discussions and one-on-one conversations with students. For accessibility and inclusion, these online meetings can include live captioning, and can be recorded for later viewing using Microsoft Stream. University staff often use the online meeting features for staff meetings, town hall meetings with the learning community, and connecting with professional colleagues around the state and around the world. Learn more about [Using Online Meetings to Connect](#) and [Hosting Live Events](#).

Collecting Data and Working Together

LMS systems often provide classroom management features and functionality, but they can be confusing, hard to use, and often inconsistent from campus to campus or even class to class. For remote learning, Microsoft Teams provides assignment and gradebook features for instructors who prefer to make Teams their one-stop solution for classroom management. These feedback features can be integrated into existing LMS systems such as Blackboard. Other instructors have chosen to use Microsoft OneNote to help organize their classes. Dr. Jonathan Rienstra-Kiracofe at Purdue University is piloting the use of Microsoft OneNote to organize the work of over 1500 students per term in science 101 courses.

On the staff collaboration side, both Teams and OneNote can be used to bring together staff teams working remotely to coordinate and collaborate whether on campus or at home. Learn more about the best practices in [using teams to organize work](#).

Management and Security

Microsoft Teams is built on the Office 365 hyper-scale, enterprise-grade cloud, with industry-leading features in access management and information protection. It is certified for use by the US Department of Defense and compliant with dozens of security standards worldwide. On a practical level, Microsoft Teams and Office 365 include robust tools for securing the environment and endpoints. Learn more about [Security and Compliance in Microsoft Teams](#).

Next Steps

Microsoft is here to help through the current coronavirus challenge and beyond. Educators have told us they see the emergency move to remote learning as a key tipping point in moving away from a traditional classroom-based learning environment to a more hybrid online + in-person model of education. Our solutions are designed to help university systems like SUNY meet the needs of higher education for decades to come.

Resources

Faculty and staff may be interested in these resources:

- <https://aka.ms/TeamsEDUQuickGuide> is a quick introduction to the user experience of Teams for instructors and students alike.
- <https://aka.ms/remote-learning> includes early resources for online meetings and lectures, online meetings with students or student groups, and business continuity. This page will be updated substantially over the next two weeks.
- <https://aka.ms/RemoteLearningWakelet> is a collection of teaching resources, quick start guides and more, curated by Microsoft education specialists and hosted by our partner Wakelet.
- <https://education.microsoft.com/en-us/course/b1e15cfc/overview> is a one-hour online course on crafting a collaborative learning environment with Microsoft Teams.
- <https://education.microsoft.com/en-us/course/9c9f5c11/overview> is a one-hour online course on using Microsoft Teams in the instructor or staff professional life. Both this course and the course above are provided with many other resources at the Microsoft Educator Center <https://education.microsoft.com/>.

IT Staff may be interested in these resources:

- <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/MicrosoftTeams/remote-learning-edu> provides a quick start for IT staff configuring and using Microsoft Teams for remote learning. It is part of a broader set of articles at <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/MicrosoftTeams/teams-quick-start-edu>.
- <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-ca/SchoolDataSync/> covers the details of the School Data Sync program that allows for automatic Class Team creation based on a roster in SUNY's SIS.

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