Virtual Meetings

You have a variety of options for hosting and participating in virtual meetings, including Microsoft Teams, Zoom, and Virtual Classroom. Each offers similar features but one may best meet your needs. Check out our Video Tools guide and Comparison Chart to compare features.

This guide will provide best practices and tips for successful virtual meetings.

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Improving Video

Talk to the camera vs the screen.

Consider what you are wearing.

Consider when your webcam is being broadcast to everyone – body language, facial expressions, movements, etc.

Check your lighting – avoid bright light or windows directly behind you.

Check your camera/webcam placement. Try to keep it at eye level.

Use your cell phone as a web cam – you can log in via the mobile app at the same time.

Consider what’s in the background - remove distractions when possible.

- Zoom: Virtual Background - Depending on the specs of your device, you’ll need a green screen for this feature to work.
- Teams: Show background effects > Background Settings - The second option is the blur background option, and various other options may be applied.

Touch up my appearance in Zoom:
Improving Audio

Use a headset with built-in mic if you have one.
Position yourself in a quiet, indoor area.
Use Mute as needed if you are not speaking.
Mute computer/device notifications in other applications.
Do not share computer sound if you are not showing a video.
Consider how loud your keyboard, computer fan, etc. may be if you don’t have a headset.

Sharing Your Screen, Whiteboard, or Other Cameras

Plan and practice with tech and materials beforehand. Consider backup plan for technical issues.
Zoom: Show/Hide floating meeting controls: Ctrl+Alt+Shift+H (Escape - to show again)

Screens & Whiteboard

Close any applications you won’t be using during your meeting.
Avoid sharing the desktop – select a specific screen or application. (Note: In Teams, you may need to share desktop if you need to share computer audio for videos.)
Remember to share computer sound if you are showing a video.
Zoom:

- Check out New Share, Pause Share options, especially if navigating between web tabs.
- Advanced screen sharing settings allow you to select Portion of Screen, Music or Computer Sound Only, Content from 2nd Camera.
- Share Screen > Advanced > Share portion of screen to focus on a specific section and enable a better visual for participants.
- Explore options for viewing: General Settings > Dual Monitor Mode and/or Screen Sharing Settings > Side by Side Mode.

Magnify/zoom in on web pages when sharing so participants can see them. (Control+ or Command+ will do this in most browsers.)
Manage annotation tools on shared screen/whiteboard.
Decide if only the host can share or others.
Doc Cam
Also join with your mobile app as you so you can use it as a doc cam.

Scheduling
- Teams:
  - Instructors: Create a Team (type: Class) for your class in MS Teams (with the option to set up smaller group Channels) or schedule individual meetings via the desktop or mobile app.
  - Students (or Staff): You may create a team for a group or schedule individual meetings via the desktop or mobile app.
- Zoom:
  - Instructors: Schedule meetings directly in D2L; if you use a password, be sure your participants have it. You may also schedule meetings in MAVZone and import them to D2L.
  - Students (or Staff): Schedule meetings via the desktop or mobile app; if you use a password, be sure your participants have it.
- Virtual Classroom:
  - Instructors: Schedule meetings directly in D2L

Managing Yourself & Participants
Remember your participants. Are you offering time for discussion, questions, breakout rooms, etc. along with your presentation?

Disable join before host.
Enable Waiting Room.
Control Screen Sharing.
Control chat options, ask questions using chat.
Use chat to share URLs or other info.
Provide non-verbal feedback via icons.
Mute your own audio or a participant’s audio and/or video as needed. Alt+M (Command+Control+M) mutes everyone except the host.
Stop a participant’s video as needed.
Remove a participant if needed.
Control file transfers.
Zoom:

- Zoom often has manual updates to features. You can check out Zoom’s Release Notes online by date. We recommend checking for updates in your Zoom application weekly. Manually running these updates will give you access to updated features.
- As of September 27, 2020, all meetings must have either a Waiting Room OR Passcode enabled. If neither is enabled, Zoom will automatically enable a Waiting Room for your meeting. We recommend using the Waiting Room option. For more information, check out Zoom’s FAQ on this update.
- Pin Video: Participants may pin/view up to 9 specific speakers.
- Spotlight Video: Host or co-host may spotlight up to 9 participants’ videos as the primary active speakers.
- Nonverbal Feedback: Participants can add an icon by their name in the participants list such as raise hand, go slower, need a break, etc.
- Coming soon: Breakout Rooms with the ability for students to select and move between rooms
- For more information, check out Zoom’s recent blog on Top Features for Securing Your Virtual Classrooms & Enhancing Students’ Learning Experiences

Check out Hot Keys and Shortcuts:

- Zoom: Hot Keys and Keyboard Shortcuts for Zoom
- Teams: Keyboard Shortcuts for Microsoft Teams

Recording

Record if course content.

Make sure participants know recording is happening – this will also discourage inappropriate behavior.

Captioning

Record if captions needed afterwards.

- Zoom: editable, auto-captions with Panopto
- Teams: editable, auto-captions with Stream (Due to file storage limits, videos and captions should be moved to Panopto afterward.)
- Virtual Classroom: Caption Manager – need to contact EAS

Live options:

- Contact EAS.
- Teams desktop and mobile app versions – live captioning is available.
- Use chat instead of audio for one-on-one meetings.
Sharing recordings in D2L afterward

- Zoom: Panopto and/or Zoom integration (Check out the option to disable password for cloud recordings.)
- Teams: Stream link or embed code for Teams (Remember to include participants as viewers in Stream’s sharing permissions.)
- Virtual Classroom: D2L integration

For more information

Instructors: Select the virtual meeting tool that best meets your needs. Check out the virtual meeting tools sections of our Video Tools guide and quick comparison chart.

CMU Virtual Meeting Guides:

- Video Chat Etiquette (YouTube video)
- Zoom:
  - Zoom Account Set Up (all campus guide)
  - Zoom Meetings with D2L (student and instructor guide)
  - Zoom Meetings with Desktop or Mobile App (all campus guide)
- Teams:
  - Teams (all campus guide)
- Bongo Virtual Classroom:
  - Basic System Requirements for Bongo (student and instructor guide)
  - Bongo Accessibility Tips (student guide)
  - Bongo Accessibility Tips (instructor guide)
  - Virtual Classroom (student guide)
  - Virtual Classroom (instructor guide)

General Best Practices for Virtual Meetings:

- The Do’s and Don’ts of Video Meetings: A quick start guide (Wiley Education Services)
- Teaching Practices for Your Virtual Classroom (Inside Higher Ed)
- Teaching Practices for the Video Classroom: Preparing for your virtual class session (Wiley Education Services)
- Teaching Practices for the Video Classroom: Running your virtual class session (Wiley Education Services)
Zoom Guides:

- [Zoom – Video Conference Etiquette](#)
- [Zoom – Best Practices for Securing Your Virtual Classroom](#)
- [Zoom – How to Keep Uninvited Guests out of Your Zoom Event](#)
- [Zoom – Student Tips for Participating in Online Learning](#)

Release Notes:

- [Zoom Release Notes](#)
- [Teams Release Notes](#)
- [Virtual Classroom (Bongo) Release Notes](#)