

Distance Education Committee  
Synchronous Learning: Camera Use  
DRAFT

**Whereas** synchronous instruction is used by some instructors to meet discipline-specific requirements, asynchronous instruction is the recommended mode of online course delivery because it provides an alternate learning mode for students who are working toward realizing their academic goals while allowing them to maintain a flexible schedule and

**Whereas** the Distance Education Senate Committee and the Distance Education division will provide a list of [participation activities](#) that faculty can use during a live online class session that don't require students to have their video on during the entire class; and

**Whereas** mandating that students be required to turn on recording of their own image may violate a student's privacy under legislation including, but not limited to [FERPA](#) regulations, students may be uncomfortable displaying their personal space to the class and instructor and students may not want their image captured or recorded due to physical and psychological safety concerns for themselves or families; and

**Whereas** students might not have reliable Internet access in a private space, devices with video-sharing technology within their household, sufficient bandwidth, and other technological requirements; and

**Whereas** Santa Monica College's [stated mission](#) is to "serve diverse individuals ... seeking high-quality, affordable undergraduate education" and SMC's [top strategic objective for 2017-2022](#) is to "close the gaps in educational outcomes among student groups," specifically Black and Latinx students;

**Whereas** "Reasonable [accommodations](#) for students with disabilities will be provided on a case-by-case basis."

**Be it resolved** that instructors shall not require students to attend live online synchronous classes with their cameras on—except when the instructor has determined that full audio and visual student participation is (1) integral to a particular class meeting or (2) necessary for purposes including assessing course objectives and outcomes, monitoring student health and safety concerns, and observing professional licensure requirements (e.g. performing arts, science labs, health sciences, communications, and kinesiology/physical education) and students have been notified before enrollment of the camera use policy