Blended A/B Cohort Sections in myCourses and SIS

Overview of Blended A/B Setup in myCourses and SIS

In order to inform students which days/times they should attend class in person for Blended A/B courses, the Registrar's Office has defined the A/B subdivisions of your class as cohort sections within SIS. As with all courses in SIS, each of your Blended A/B cohort sections will have its own myCourses shell generated automatically.

You will see something like the following in both SIS and myCourses:

- **Course Name 101.01** (main course, all students enrolled in the course are enrolled in this section)
- **Course Name 101.01S1** (first cohort section, same course number with additional cohort indicator, only the students in this cohort are enrolled in this section)
- **Course Name 101.01S2** (second cohort section, same course number with additional cohort indicator, only the students in this cohort are enrolled in this section)
- Then any other additional cohort sections for your specific blended type using the same format as the above.

Note that there are many variations of cohort indicators such as "Course Name 101.01S1", "Course Name 101.01R1" and "Course Name 101.01L1".

In SIS, students will see both the main course and their specific cohort section on the list of courses they are registered for. In myCourses, students will have access to both the main course shell and their specific cohort shell.

How to Use the Main Course and Cohort Sections in myCourses

How you decide to use the main course and cohort sections in myCourses will depend on how you plan on interacting with your blended sections. Whichever approach you use, you will need to communicate clearly to students where they will find the course materials, and how and where they should submit their work. The information below describes our recommended option and an alternative option, and how to achieve each option.

**Recommended Option: Use Cohort Section Shells as Schedule Reinforcement**

In this option you will continue to use the main course shell as the hub for your course. All materials, Zoom meetings/recordings, student work, communications, and grading will occur in the main course shell throughout the semester. The cohort sections will only serve to remind students of their cohort's scheduling expectations and point students back to the main course.

**Benefits:** Instructor manages one course. Students open one course for their coursework. Students can interact with other students in the other cohorts.

**Limitations:** If you have different materials, communications, or due dates for different cohorts, you will need to [Use Special Access with Groups or Sections](#).

**How to Do This:**

1. Build all course materials, Zoom meetings, activities, and the gradebook into the main course shell in myCourses. To make the main course shell easier to locate, **pin it on your course list**. Continue to work in and update the main course shell throughout the semester.
2. In each cohort section in myCourses, post an announcement indicating the day/time that the cohort meets in person, a link to the main course shell, and a reminder that all work will be completed in the main course shell. Do not use the cohort sections after this point.

**Alternative: Use Cohort Section Shells as Individual Courses**

In this option you will use each cohort section as an individual course for that cohort. All materials, Zoom meetings/recordings, student work, communications, and grading for the first cohort will occur exclusively in the first cohort shell. The second and third (or more) cohorts would also work exclusively in their own respective cohort shells. The main course shell will only serve to remind students of the various cohort's scheduling expectations and point students to their individual cohort section shells.

**Benefits:** Instructors can easily separate out different materials, communications, and due dates for the different cohorts. Students open one course for their coursework.

**Limitations:** Instructors manage multiple course shells throughout the semester. The initial population of the materials into the course shells can be streamlined through [Copy Components](#). Students cannot see or interact with students in the other cohorts.

**How to Do This:**

1. In the main course shell in myCourses, post an announcement indicating the cohort indicators, the day/time that each cohort meets in person, links to each of the cohort section shells, a reminder that students only will see their assigned cohort section, and a reminder that all work will be completed in the student's cohort section shell. Do not use the main section after this point.
2. In each cohort section in myCourses, build the course materials, Zoom meetings, activities, and the gradebook for that one cohort. Note that instructors can build all similar materials/settings into one cohort section shell then use [Copy Components](#) to copy the materials/settings to the other cohort section shells. Instructors can then customize each cohort section shell. Continue to work in and update the individual cohort sections shells throughout the semester.