

VIDEO CONFERENCING IN THE CLASSROOM

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Overview

The Department of Music and Theatre Arts has numerous scenarios where remote access to courses are required. Some of the courses conducted in Music Industry program involve having expert and executive guest lecturers participate remotely. Over the summer when students leave campus, they still need to attend classes. In both cases, participants connect to the classroom via Skype. To accommodate these needs, the department obtained a premium Skype account which allows multiple callers and enhanced features.



Project Goals

The department aimed to facilitate the participation of guest lecturers, and eliminate some of the time and money constraints associated with having them participate due to their geographical locations. The department also wanted to offer students flexibility with regard to enrolling in summer courses, with the goal of increasing enrollment.



Outcomes

With respect to the project's goals, the effort has been successful. By allowing guest lectures to connect remotely, instructors can tap into a larger pool of engaging experts regardless of location. Access via Skype eliminates the cost of travel and is more accommodating of a busy executive's time constraints.

By making summer courses available to remote students, the department encouraged more students to consider taking classes who would otherwise opt not to because of location. This flexibility has resulted in increased enrollment for summer classes.

A connected/wired classroom with stationary workstation w/audio/video would eliminate redundant set ups, technical difficulties and be more in line with MU's main campus and competitive classroom configurations, however because of the department's familiarity with technology, they have been able to execute these tasks effectively.