It’s important to keep channels of communication open with your students while Pitt operates under the Flex@Pitt instructional model. With some students learning in the classroom while others participate remotely, now is a great time to reach out to your students to check in on their well-being and preparedness.

Ask your students:

- How are they doing? Indicate your concern for their health, both physical and mental.
- What else can you do to support their learning during this time? As an instructor, you should keep in mind that this situation may exacerbate pre-existing inequalities and practice compassionate and equitable leadership.

- Do they have the technology, time, and space necessary to complete assignments as designed? For example, if students need to record their presentations, do they have access to a webcam?

- Are they spending a comparable and manageable amount of time on course work? Students can feel like written “participation” in an online discussion board takes more time and effort than spoken contributions in a face-to-face format. You might discuss how both “in-class” time and “homework” time are spent online, while at the same time adjusting/adapting workload to address the significant, unexpected pressures students are facing.

For more resources and information on communicating and engaging with your students, visit our Resources for Teaching page.

Flex@Pitt Training: Student-Facing Camera Overview

Learning spaces at Pitt are currently equipped with Zoom Room hardware to facilitate hybrid teaching under the Flex@Pitt instructional model. A student-facing camera is now available to instructors who teach in classrooms with
compatible technology. [Watch the latest Zoom Rooms tutorial](https://example.com) to learn about this new feature and what it can mean for your class.

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### Feb. 5: Pitt Seed Letters of Intent Due

All faculty and staff members across all five Pitt campuses may submit letters of intent for this year's Pitt Seed Projects by **Friday, Feb. 5**. The top priorities of the Office of the Chancellor and Office of the Provost for this cycle are projects that address diversity and inclusion, and institutional resilience. However, all applications will be considered. Read the full [request for proposals](https://example.com) and [frequently asked questions](https://example.com).

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### Midterm Survey Requests Are Now Open

Instructors can now request a midterm course survey through the [Teaching Survey dashboard](https://example.com). Collecting student feedback early in the term can uncover
which teaching methods are working, which are not, and whether adjustments should be made.

- **Jan. 25-Feb. 18:** Faculty may request a midterm course survey through their Teaching Survey Dashboard.
- **Feb. 8-21:** Faculty can add personalized questions to midterm course surveys.
- **Feb. 22-28:** Midterm course surveys open.
- **March 1:** Midterm course survey reports are made available to faculty.

For more resources and information, please visit our midterm course survey page.

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**2021 Assessment and Teaching Conference**

University of Pittsburgh faculty and faculty support specialists are invited to attend the virtual 2021 Assessment and Teaching Conference on **Friday, Feb. 12**. The conference brings together faculty and staff from across the University for a day to discuss the relationship between assessment, student learning, and teaching. More information on the conference agenda and registration will be released soon. Please visit the Assessment and Teaching Conference web page for updates.
Classroom Services, located in B-10 Alumni Hall, is open weekly from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Monday-Wednesday. Specialists are available, by appointment only, to provide support for equipment loans, returns, technical support, and training on how to use available equipment. Please email Classroom Services to schedule an appointment.

Classroom Services also offers in-person Flex@Pitt classroom technology training every Friday. Please visit our workshops page to learn more and register.

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Zoom Meeting Recordings Stored in Panopto
As of December 2020, recorded Zoom meetings are stored in Panopto, the University's video storage and streaming solution. If you've recorded your Zoom meeting, the recording will automatically be transferred to Panopto for storage, and then deleted out of the Zoom Cloud. You can then edit, use and share these recordings in a number of ways, both in and outside of your Canvas courses. Where in Panopto your meeting recording will be placed depends on how the meeting was initially scheduled, and is covered in our latest blog entry.

Transforming the Teaching and Learning Environment Virtual Conference Begins Feb. 1
The 2021 Transforming the Teaching & Learning Environment virtual conference begins on **Monday Feb. 1, and runs through Feb. 12**. Pitt has purchased a license for all faculty to participate in this event. There will be 60 one-hour sessions delivered using Zoom. Each one will be live and interactive, giving attendees the opportunity to engage with education professionals from all over the world. Visit the conference website to view the agenda. Click on a session and enter your personal information to register.

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**News & Announcements**
Proposals are due March 11, for the next round of open education resources project funding. For information on funding range, eligibility, and more, view the [OER funding application page](#).

### Upcoming Virtual Workshops

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Workshop</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Register</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>02/01/2021</td>
<td>Developing A Lesson Plan</td>
<td>1-2:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Register Now</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/02/2021</td>
<td>Video Creation Feedback and Critique Session</td>
<td>3-4 p.m.</td>
<td>Register Now</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/02/2021</td>
<td>Deliver and Grade Assignments with Gradescope</td>
<td>4-5 p.m.</td>
<td>Register Now</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/05/2021</td>
<td>Flex@Pitt: Using Classroom Technology</td>
<td>10-11 a.m.</td>
<td>Register Now</td>
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<tr>
<td>02/05/2021</td>
<td>Mentoring Academy</td>
<td>First Session</td>
<td>Noon-2 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>02/11/2021</td>
<td>White Privilege in Information</td>
<td>1-2 p.m.</td>
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