Capacity for Online and Hybrid Delivery of Courses

UC Merced is a member of the Sakai consortium of more than 160 universities and partners. Among its key functions, this consortium supports an open-source system of course management that provides tools for synchronous and asynchronous online or on-site instruction. Our version, called UCMCROPS, has the same general features of course management that are offered by commercial vendors such as Web-CT and Blackboard. These features include a chat room, wiki, podcasts, individual drop boxes, email contacts and correspondence archive, class testing and surveys, and online reporting of course grades.

https://ucmcrops.ucmerced.edu/xsl-portal/

http://www.sakaiproject.org/portal/site/sakai-home/page/41344e39-89f5-40cd-a153-2370382419d9

Our campus also supports live, interactive videoconference technology that is utilized on a limited basis to allow for instructional opportunities that would otherwise not be possible on campus. Graduate students can participate in lectures, seminars, and journal groups that are offered at other UC campuses. Some Summer Session courses taught at UC Merced have also been delivered through videoconference to our UC Centers in Fresno and Bakersfield.

Occasionally, as a pilot or experimental project, academic programs will offer a fully online class or one with hybrid/blended elements of instruction, but these online/hybrid classes do not comprise 50% of a program's entire curriculum and, therefore, are not subject to Substantive Change review. For instance, in AY2010-11 the Merritt Writing Program offered about 5% of its upper-division classes in a hybrid format with 1 unit online and 3 units face-to-face. In the next five years, the MWP might increase its percentage of hybrid offerings to 25% of upper-division classes, mostly to offset shortages of classroom space as the campus continues to grow in overall enrollment yet remains relatively unchanged in the total number of available classrooms.