Hybrid and blended learning
with Microsoft solutions

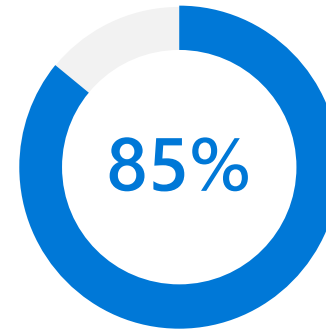L100 – June 2021

Moving beyond "squares on a screen"

Today, it can be tempting to think of hybrid and blended learning as "squares on a screen," with students and faculty alike getting video conferencing fatigue from hours of remote connection. But the digital learning paradigm isn't just about being able to hold class from anywhere—it's about truly personalizing the learning experience and creating new methods of engagement to include every student. That's an exciting future.
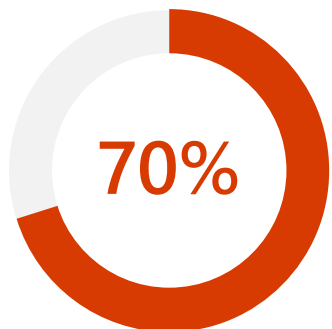
Remote learning was necessary but never ideal

50% of faculty and educators witnessed a drop in student engagement during the shift to remote learning[1]

70% of faculty and educators are concerned about their ability to deliver engaging, high-value learning experiences[1]
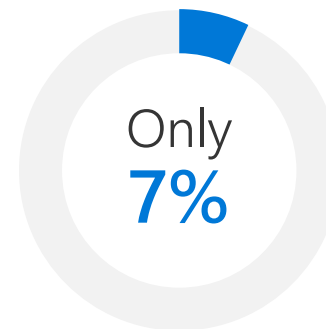
However, technology represents enormous opportunities for learning

85% of faculty and educators believe that the pandemic accelerated the future of digital learning by a decade[1]

Only **7%** of students believe digital learning will not benefit their education[1]

[1] "Bridging the digital divide to engage students in higher education." A study by The Economist Intelligence Unit, commissioned by Microsoft, 2020.

Our student-centered approach to hybrid and blended learning

An approach combining in-person and digital learning that builds on successful practices from remote learning to create learner-centered, personalized, inclusive, accessible, and engaging experiences.

Whether your preferred terminology is blended or hybrid or something else, digital technology is here to stay in education. Our approach is to make the most of that technology to truly center the student in the learning experience. Read our [blog](#) or [whitepaper](#) for an even deeper explanation of this shift.

Reimagining higher education

Blended learning involves much more than virtual classes—it is a holistic, reimagined learning experience that enables all students to continue their education regardless of global health crises, weather, transportation limitations, or other obstacles. Now that education is shifting into the long-term reality of blended learning, we want to help you to not only respond to the immediate moment but also build a foundation to help all students succeed.

Both in-person and remote

Adaptive to unpredictable situations

Multimodal and interactive

Both synchronous and asynchronous

FLEXIBLE

PERSONALIZED

ENGAGING

INCLUSIVE

Tailored for each student according to insights

Accommodates diverse learning styles

Accessible to students of all abilities

Collaborative and community-oriented

Reimagining higher education

Below are some of the key features and capabilities that bring these areas to life.

- **Anywhere access** on desktop, mobile, or web
- **Easy file access** for rubrics, assignments, and other course materials
- **Dedicated class channels** generated according to student rosters
- **Large virtual events** for up to 20,000 users
- **Integrated calendars** for simplified class and meeting scheduling
- **External access** for users from outside your institution

- **Student insights** in intuitive data dashboards
- **Integrated grades and tracking** for student engagement, attendance, and other important metrics
- **Tailored, automated career guidance** to help students build skills and network
- **Custom apps, flows, and bots** to streamline teaching and respond to students' needs

FLEXIBLE   PERSONALIZED

ENGAGING   INCLUSIVE

- **Virtual class sessions** with recording, digital whiteboard, hand-raising, and innovative class views
- **Breakout rooms** during meetings
- **Real-time collaboration** on documents and files in a central place
- **1:1 and group chat** with integrated apps, polls, gifs, emojis, and more
- **Hands-on virtual labs** hosted in the cloud

- **Live captions and translation** for meetings and chats
- **Automatic accessibility checking** for presentations and documents
- **Social-emotional gauge** to assess how students are doing
- **Comprehensive, built-in accessibility** features to help include students of all abilities

Florida State University's "Campus Reimagined" initiative created personalized recommendations for students, enabled by Microsoft Teams and Power Apps—leading to enhanced student engagement and a smoother transition to remote learning. Read more at this link.

> " For us, the reward has been so great that I can't even imagine going back to the old way of not using technology for the students. The engagement of the students has been so high, the things we've been able to accomplish have been just amazing.
>
> **- Dr. Solveig Brown**
> *Campus Reimagined's Learning and Assessment Expert*

At the University of New South Wales, Dr. David Kellermann revolutionized student engagement with digital tools including the Azure-powered Question Bot, Microsoft Teams, and Surface Hub. Read more about some of Dr. Kellermann's efforts at this link.
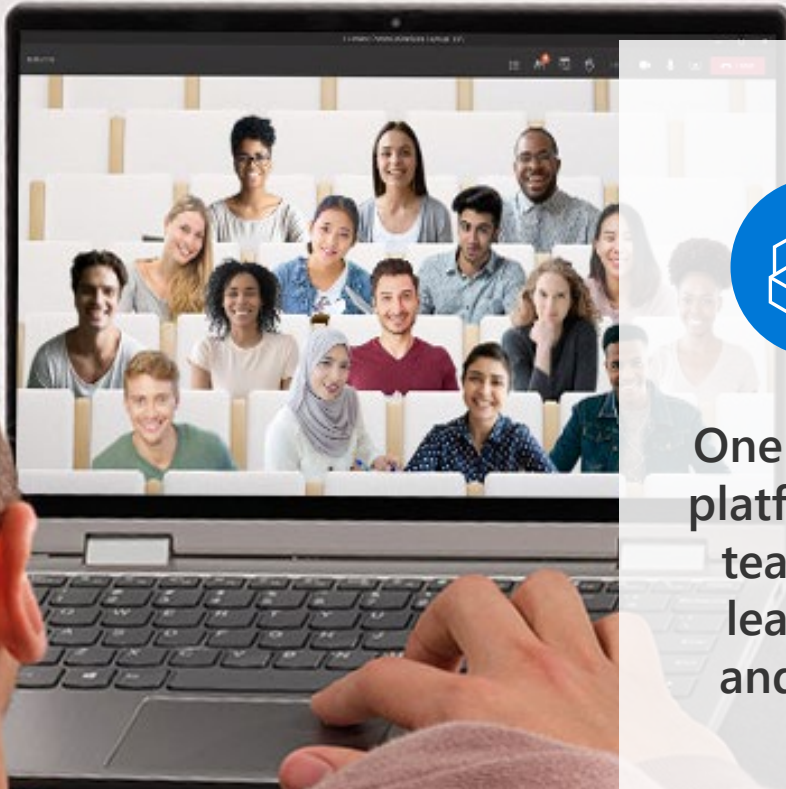
> " These technologies leverage the benefit of each person's learning experience to benefit everyone's overall education. I'm now able to reach over 99% course satisfaction. The experience is multi-modal, it's accessible and it's tailored to the specific needs of every individual student.
>
> **- Dr. David Kellermann**
> *Senior Lecturer in the School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering, UNSW*

How Microsoft enables blended and hybrid learning

Now let's take a deeper dive into the solutions that enable a more student-centered approach to blended and hybrid learning. While the various features and products involved work seamlessly together, we've organized the solution into a few categories...

One unified platform for teaching, learning, and work

Insights and apps to tailor the learning experience

Innovative devices to modernize learning spaces

A foundation of security and accessibility

A unified learning experience in Microsoft Teams

Microsoft Teams provides assignments, quizzes, grades, insights, group and 1:1 chat, polls, connection to hundreds of apps, integration with your LMS, and engaging class sessions.

Every class has its own team with a class notebook and grades. Create an engaged class community by posting announcements, assignments, and files for the whole class to collaborate on.

Class sessions include features like breakout rooms, screen sharing, hand raising, live captions, meeting chat, and views like Together Mode to promote engagement.

" For us, moving to Teams was about more than simply updating our communications platform. We saw Teams as an easier entry point for doing just about anything.

- Niranjan Prabhu
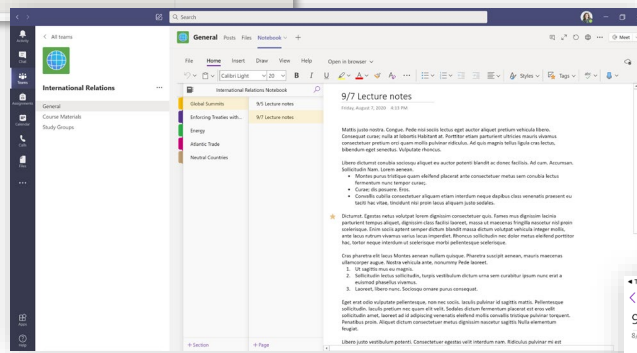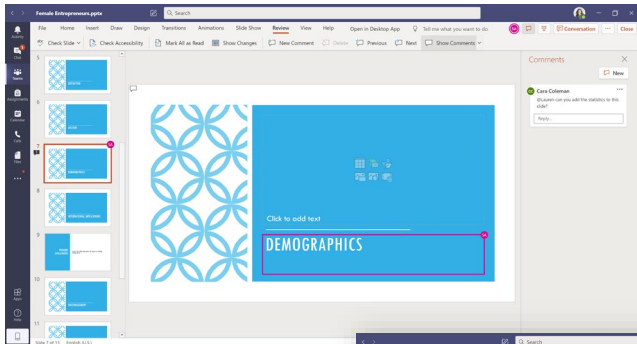CIO & Director of IT, Australian Catholic University

Real-time collaboration in Microsoft 365

Access all of the familiar productivity apps you need—**Word, PowerPoint, OneNote, and more**—right within Teams, where students and professors can **collaborate and create together**.

OneNote Class Notebooks offer a personal workspace for every student to take notes and easily access course materials.
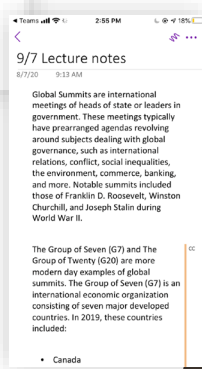
Collaborate on files in real-time **without ever leaving Teams.** Add comments and tag members of the class.
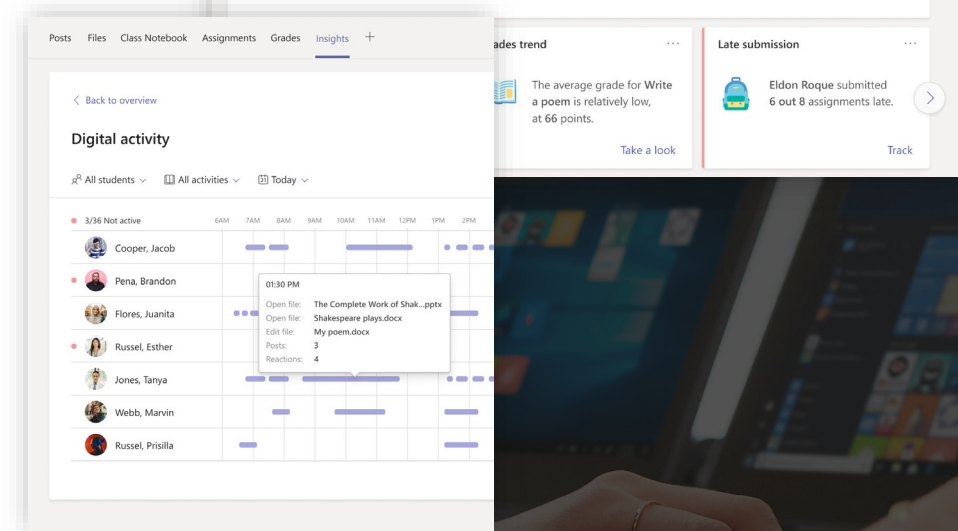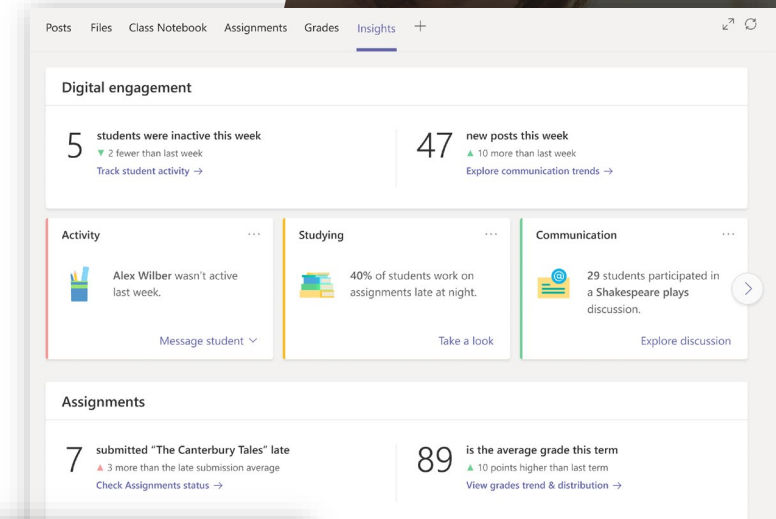
Tailored student insights within Microsoft Teams

Education Insights in Teams provide real-time analytics and visualizations of student progress within a class team.

Faculty are presented with **meaningful, reliable data** to make informed decisions regarding their learning communities—helping to ensure students' **emotional, social, and academic needs** are being met.

Faculty can click on a section to view **detailed analytics** about digital activity, grade trends, submission deadlines, communication, time management, and more.

Data dashboards and custom apps in Power Platform

Power Platform allows you to automate processes with apps, flows, and bots that open right in Teams. No coding experience is required.

Power Apps

Create custom apps to promote digital engagement and learning

Power Automate

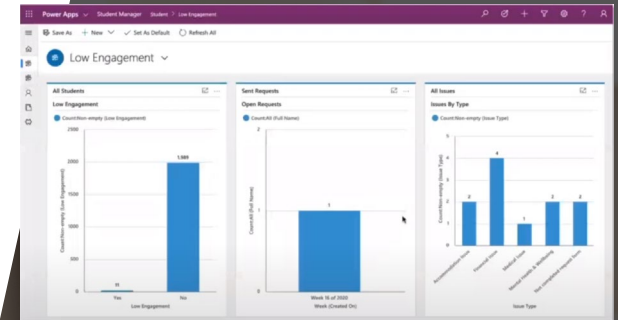Expedite time-consuming tasks like assessments, compliance, and more

Power BI

Get actionable, data-driven insights about students or key school processes

Power Virtual Agents

Employ chatbots to answer questions, learn from responses, and give insights

ANS developed a Power Platform solution to identify **students falling below desired engagement levels.**

- Power Automate sends an email to the student asking if they need help when engagement falls below designated thresholds

- The student fills out a quick form, which is then sent to an app used by university support

- An AI-infused chatbot can also notify the support team, with all data visualized in Power BI

Blended learning with Teams Rooms

Microsoft Teams Rooms enable every student to be seen, heard, and fully participate from anywhere. Using Teams-certified cameras, mics, speakers, and touch panels, you get a blended class environment with high-quality A/V that works smoothly.

> " We knew we wanted to use Team as our platform for video teleconferencing and for enabling online and hybrid instruction. Teams Rooms offered the devices that allowed the learning to happen on Teams.
>
> — **Jason Hair**
> Senior Director of Infrastructure and Operations
> University of South Florida IT

Flexible learning with Microsoft Surface

Microsoft offers a **portfolio of Surface devices** with touch and inking for more experiential and accessible learning, plus LTE options, built-in security, powerful processors, HD cameras, long-lasting battery, and an optimized Microsoft 365 experience.

> ❝ The students were simply more comfortable with Surface Pro. They liked how it was easy to deploy, easy to manage and carry, the compact style, touchscreen features, laptop/tablet functionality.
>
> **- Dr. Lawrence Potter, Jr.**
> Chief Academic Officer
> University Of District of Columbia

Certain Surface devices can **switch between laptop mode and tablet mode** so that students and faculty can choose the setup that works best for them.

Foundational security

Microsoft takes security seriously—investing over $1 billion per year in security research and development and employing thousands of security experts who work around the clock to help keep your data safe.

Identity and access management
Ensure secure connections between people, devices, apps, and data with a holistic and flexible identity solution

Information protection
Protect your sensitive data everywhere, even in transit and when shared, and maintain visibility into and control over file use

Threat protection
Detect and investigate advanced threats, compromised identities, and malicious actions both on-prem and in the cloud

Cloud security
Get comprehensive, cross-cloud protection with Microsoft cloud security solutions

> " The incident detection and response capabilities we get with Office 365 Advanced Threat Protection give us far more coverage than we've had before. This is a really big deal for us.
>
> **Jason Youngers**
> Director and Information Security Officer, Ithaca College

Built-in accessibility

Microsoft builds accessibility directly into our solutions, helping to include those with physical or invisible disabilities. Windows, Microsoft 365, and Microsoft Teams all support accessible learning experiences—whether **online, blended, or in-person.** A few examples of built-in tools...

Vision
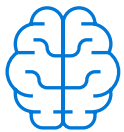Screen reading, speech-to-text, Seeing AI, Magnifier, and more

Hearing
Live captions and meeting transcriptions with translation

Neurodiversity
Immersive Reader, Focus Assist, and more tools to improve comprehension

Mental Health
Minimize visual distractions and organize your to-dos

Learning
Learning Tools to make reading and writing accessible

Mobility
Type with your voice or use assistive technology alongside Windows 10

Choose the solutions that meet your needs

While various Microsoft features and products do work together as a unified solution, you can also take a more modular approach and choose the products that best suit your needs. This is a recap of some of the key capabilities available.

Features included in every level, free for education

- Class sessions with breakout rooms, recording, live captions, and digital whiteboard
- Assignments, quizzes, grades, and student insights
- Group and 1:1 chat with integrated apps and polls
- Real-time collaboration on documents
- Notes and coursework, both online and off
- Secure file storage and sharing
- Online learning paths and support

Upgrades to take the student experience to the next level

- Data dashboards with personalized insights
- Hands-on virtual labs
- Apps, flows, and bots to tailor teaching
- Teams Rooms and Surface Hubs
- Microsoft Surface and Windows devices

Microsoft is deeply invested in higher education

Microsoft builds products specifically for education and offers a holistic learning platform—not just a point solution designed to fulfill only one need.

Microsoft provides a holistic education solution with a unified collaboration platform, integrated intelligence, and a secure cloud

Microsoft employs 400+ engineers building education-specific technologies, with 100 million or more students worldwide using Microsoft Teams

Microsoft offers free online training and resources to help students and faculty ramp up on the latest technologies, build new skills, and earn certifications

Get started today

To embark on any of the steps below, please reach out to us at this link—we look forward to hearing from you!

Schedule an L200 Blended and Hybrid Learning Presentation from a Microsoft specialist to go deeper on solutions

Set up an envisioning session to determine which solutions are right for your institution

Ready to onboard? Contact FastTrack for Microsoft 365 at microsoft.com/FastTrack for deployment assistance from specialists