Online one-on-one video discussion as an alternative evaluation to in-person test in HyFlex course

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This SoTL research project investigated an alternative evaluation method in PHY453, a HyFlex physics course, comparing traditional pen-and-paper tests with online one-on-one video discussions.

Sorina Zota, PhD, principal investigator and faculty in the School of Biology Studies and Applied Chemistry, and her team, assessed students' choices and concerns regarding inclass, online synchronous, and online asynchronous modalities of interaction with the course content, as well as their willingness to select the alternative evaluation method instead of in-class written tests.

Given that one-on-one online discussions are time-consuming and resource-intensive, involving careful planning and implementation, the project also estimated the time required to organize and complete them.

Project findings:

- Students' preferences for evaluation methods do not significantly correlate with their choice of participating in class or online.
- The most common factors influencing participation mode are work schedule and timetable, interaction with the professor and transportation convenience.
- The video discussion is perceived as more aligned with workplace practice, especially in terms of real-time communication and problem solving.
- Logistically, organizing and conducting eleven video discussions required twice more faculty time than invigilating a traditional 90-minutes test session and marking the same number of papers.

Limitations of the study include small sample size.

This project highlighted the value of student-centered assessment design in a HyFlex learning environment. Beyond the quantitative data, the qualitative feedback revealed how evaluation modality can impact student confidence and stress levels.

Future research may explore the long-term impact of flexible course delivery and diverse

evaluation methods on student performance and satisfaction. Additionally, investigating the effectiveness of different online interaction tools and platforms could provide valuable insights.