

## Purposes/Uses/Benefits

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The **Purpose** of any Learning Management System adopted at UNC is to facilitate teaching and learning and make the UNC educational experience available to the broadest possible audience. Ideally, the specific LMS technology should recede into the background so that students and faculty can focus on the learning experience.

Specific **Uses** of a Learning Management System include:

- Facilitating communication, distributing handouts and other course materials, collecting and returning assignments, and maintaining real-time student grades that are accessible to the student at any time during the course. This use is relevant to traditional, face to face courses as well as online and hybrid courses.
- Delivering content and instruction in purely online courses (including independent study courses), and in online components of hybrid courses.
- Facilitating student-student, instructor-student and student-content interaction.
- Providing an asynchronous learning environment.
- Providing a synchronous learning environment that is an alternative to traditional, classroom based instruction.
- Facilitating collaboration among faculty, administrative staff or other groups with a common interest including teaching, research, and campus service.
- Facilitating cross-institutional collaboration by faculty and other campus groups.

Please note that this list is not exhaustive. As technology evolves, new uses will almost certainly emerge.

Specific **Benefits** of a Learning Management System include

- Making the UNC educational experience available to the broadest possible audience.
- Reaching populations who are unwilling or unable to participate in face to face learning.
- Increasing the efficiency of content delivery and the more purely administrative tasks associated with course delivery, so that faculty time can be spent developing student skills and providing feedback to students on the quality of their learning.
- Facilitating compliance with FERPA and other state and federal laws governing higher education.
- In addition, the benefits of a **single** Learning Management platform include the ability to provide consistent, reliable technical support and training, and to allow users to focus on course content rather than navigating unfamiliar technology.

Here again, as technology evolves, new benefits may become apparent.