

Network Collaborative Course Design Essentials

Network Collaborative Course Definition:

Network Collaborative Courses (NCCs) are co-created by faculty across network institutions and are taught in collaboration at two or more partner campuses. These courses expose students to diverse perspectives through a wide range of cross-network readings, assignments, activities, and events. Network courses advance students' understanding of discipline-specific and global issues within a local and international context.

NCCs may entail longer (full-semester) or shorter, more modular (4-6 weeks) cross-network collaboration depending on the partners' availability and learning objectives of the course. The length of the cross-network collaboration doesn't impact the outcome of approval. What is central, however, is that the course engages the students in meaningful cross-network collaboration.

NCCs aim to strengthen a set of learning objectives among participating students, including:

1. **Global Learning** (understanding of global systems and how diverse perspectives impact the framing of global and local issues; the recognition of one's role in contributing to solutions in both local and global contexts)
2. **Intercultural Competence** (cultural self-awareness; curiosity and open-minded consideration of others' ideas, and increased ability to embrace cultural diversity)
3. **Teamwork** (the ability to synthesize and build on others' contributions; the development of skills and mindset required for effective collaboration)

The course syllabus should include: 1) cross-institutional collaborative activities and projects, 2) shared readings, 3) schedule of cross-network online sessions, 4) guest speakers, and 5) course-related co-curricular events (optional) to ensure that students from participating campuses can engage in meaningful cross-network collaboration.

Course Design Essentials:

- ☐ Check dates of terms, time differences, weekends, holidays, daylight saving times, and vacations of participating institutions
- ☐ Determine the timeline for cross-institutional collaboration between the course sections (overlapping teaching days and times that can be allocated to cross-network synchronous online sessions)
- ☐ Establish shared course learning outcomes and how the course will promote Network Collaborative Course program learning objectives (global learning, intercultural competencies, collaboration/teamwork)
- ☐ Determine collaborative tasks and projects, including an expectation of how the cross-network assignments will be scaffolded via synchronous and asynchronous sessions and how collaboration will be assessed
- ☐ Identify and agree upon common readings and materials
- ☐ Propose speaker(s) for all-course section sessions (optional)
- ☐ Establish key cross-network collaboration due dates
- ☐ Enroll the course on the network's Brightspace platform (upon proposal acceptance)

For more guidance, please contact Zahid Jalali at zjalali@bard.edu and/or refer to the: [The Connected and Blended Learning Toolkit](#) to develop your NCC.