

Zoom Video Conferencing

The university has acquired a license for the use of Zoom video conferencing by faculty in support of online course delivery. A Zoom option has been added to courses in both Canvas and eLearning for scheduling of video meetings as part of a course. The university's Zoom license allows for a number of features, such as:

- Cloud recording of meetings
- Automated auto transcription of recordings
- Breakout rooms
- Much more

Additional details and training on the use of Zoom for online course delivery will be made available shortly by John Futterer, Mount Mary's instructional designer. As mentioned in previous communications, the default settings for our Zoom instance have been chosen to maximum privacy and online security; additional information can be found in Zoom's [Best Practices for Securing Your Virtual Classroom](#) blog post, and will be included in John's training materials. Based on recent announcements regarding the availability of services like Big Blue Button, we recommend that all instructors needing video conferencing and remote collaboration capabilities switch to Zoom.

For communication needs outside of online courses -- such as phone and video calls, advising sessions, etc -- the recommended tool is Skype for Business. While Zoom is currently available only for online course delivery use, IT Services will continue to examine the possibility for additional uses going forward. As a reminder, neither a Zoom account nor the Zoom software are required to participate in a Zoom call or webinar hosted by another party.

Virtual Computer Lab

The virtual computer lab is now available for use by students. The virtual computer lab allows students to connect to a virtual computer using a web browser on their own personal computer, and make use of resource-intensive applications in the cloud instead of running them on their own personal machine. Applications currently available on the virtual lab currently include the following, with additional applications to be evaluated for later inclusion. IT Services is still in the process of making SPSS available via the virtual computer lab.

- Adobe Creative Cloud
- AutoCAD
- Revit
- SketchUp Pro
- Optitex
- Visual Retailing

For more information on making use of the virtual computer lab, please see the [Getting Started with the Virtual Desktops](#) guide, as well as the End User Guide in the [Apporto Help Center](#).