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Blending First-Year Calculus: Tales from the Trenches on blending Calculus for the Physical and Life Sciences

Blended learning is a combination of face-to-face and computer-mediated teaching and learning activities. Blended learning gives students some control over the time, place, content, and pace of their own learning, and it provides instructors with flexibility to enhance and "flip" the in-class experience. At the University of Alberta, we created and designed Calculus for the Physical Sciences I and II and Calculus for the Life Sciences I in a blended format. In these courses, we also experimented with two-stage exams, to provide a better learning opportunity for students.

I will present an overview of the structure of our blended courses, and provide examples of some of the online material that we produced and face-to-face learning activities that we experimented with. I will share some initial feedback (from students, observers, and the instructor), and reflect on our successes and challenges.