



What is Microsoft Teams?

Microsoft Teams is an app that facilitates communication and collaboration in a virtual workspace. It is part of the Microsoft 365 suite of products and is included in the free Microsoft package available to all Montgomery College professors and students.

Why would a faculty member want to use Teams?

Teams was originally developed as a business app, but due to its versatility, Teams makes a superb tool for educators. Professors can create a team for each class as well as groups within classes. The video conferencing feature allows for whole-group discussions, and breakout rooms can be used for group work during class. The teams for which the product is named offer numerous features which enhance the learning experience. Instructors and students can easily share documents and links in the files area within a team. The Class Notebook, Assignments, and Grades features allow for interactive lessons and quick feedback.

How will using Microsoft Teams to collaborate enhance your class?

Since Microsoft Teams was designed for collaboration, the application lends itself to collaborative learning, allowing for a constructivist approach to instruction. The constructivist learning theory maintains that students and teachers work together in building new understanding. In the constructivist viewpoint, learners are not passive recipients of knowledge but rather co-creators with the teacher of new knowledge. Thus, learners gain a greater degree of ownership over the learning experience. This helps students develop learner agency and become more autonomous learners, and Teams can provide the technological foundation. It should be noted, though, that Teams is not a learning management system (LMS) and should be employed as an addition to Blackboard rather than a substitute for it.

Where can I learn more about using Microsoft Teams?

To learn more about Teams, please check out the following videos. The first video is a brief overview of Teams, while the second delves more into the functionality of the app.

[What is Microsoft Teams?](#)

[How to use Microsoft Teams](#)

In addition, please visit these websites for more ideas on how Teams can benefit your instruction. All three blog posts describe how teachers can use Teams creatively and effectively.

[Teams for Education](#)

[Microsoft Teams: What is it and How Does it Work for Students and Teachers](#)

[Using Microsoft Teams in a Hybrid Classroom](#)