

HOW TO PREVENT ZOOMBOMBING



As the SFA community works together to find its new norm in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, faculty in particular are finding themselves in uncharted waters—digital classroom management. If you haven't heard the term yet, welcome to the age of “Zoombombing.” “Zoom” refers to our institution’s adopted web conferencing solution, and “bombing” refers to unwelcome, disruptive content being shared during the class.

While we do not anticipate this type of behavior occurring with SFA students, the Center for Teaching & Learning prides itself on providing timely resources that successfully support faculty and SFA’s Keep Teaching initiative. Below are several tips that can help you more effectively manage your digital classroom environment and improve student learning experiences:

Tip #1: Familiarize yourself with Zoom program settings.

Zoom has recently posted a helpful [blog post](#) that offers preventive measures to avoid Zoom “party crashers.” This blog post gives instruction on how to:

- Control access to meetings
- Manage participants' ability to share their screens
- Add password protections
- Disable participant’s video
- Turn off file transfer
- Mute participants
- Disable private chat functions

Additionally, consider utilizing Zoom’s “waiting room” feature, which allows you to stop students from joining the meeting until faculty are ready for them to do so.

Tip #2: Set clear expectations and communicate them often.

As mentioned in the CTL’s Keep Teaching [Getting Started Guide](#), it’s important to revise not only your content but also your expectations. By listing updated expectations in your syllabus, students have a clear guide that will set the tone for online classroom behavior. Additionally, adding reminders via email, and Brightspace news items is a great way to reach students effectively. Here are a few examples that may prove helpful for setting digital classroom expectations:

- Remind students that you are a community of learners and that Zoom sessions are not intended to be recorded or reposted in any way.
- Encourage students to express themselves during Zoom sessions, while directly noting the importance of respecting the views of others.
- Add a note stating that you have the right to censor and/or remove any student that becomes disruptive to the learning process.