

What is video conferencing?

IVN provides two way audio and video communications throughout the state. Dedicated IVN Classrooms, referred to as Public Rooms located in all 11 North Dakota University System campuses. Videoconference sites can also be found in K-12 and state agencies as well as NDSU Extension and Tribal Colleges throughout the state.

Types of Connections

Videoconferencing connections consist of two types:

◆Point-to-point: involving only two sites

Connections can be scheduled and bridged to automatically dial one another or one site can manually dial the other site by using the IP Address.



◆Multi-point: involves three or more sites

Scheduling is required through your IVN campus scheduler (usually the IVN Site Coordinators) or IVN scheduler to make the connection.



How does the IVN system operate?

As an instructor, you will see and hear people at the other sites through the use of monitors, video cameras and microphones. They also have the ability to see and hear you on monitors located in their sites.



At your site, one monitor will show your current room and another monitor will show one of the remote sites. A technician will be available to operate the camera(s) and other equipment.



The system automatically switches to the site from which a person is speaking as it is voice activated. Students will communicate through microphones that are either ceiling mounted or placed elsewhere in the classroom. If two people say something at the same time, the person who speaks the longest and/or loudest is the one you will see.

If you want to look at a different location than the one currently on your remote monitor, ask someone at another site a question. For example, "Minot, what do you think of the new state law regarding student attendance we have been discussing?" Once a person begins speaking, you and all the participating sites will see the Minot site.

As the instructor, you may wish to establish a protocol on how you want to handle the microphone system – whether muted for the entire class. The higher ed system begins with microphones muted, so you will need to ask the other site to unmute when you ask a question.

