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Recommended Equipment

For Teaching Live Virtual classes

Video and audio quality is critical when you teach online. Keep in mind that students will be part of a conversation for a long time and attention span in online sessions tends to be much lower than in-class. So, if the sound quality is bad, the video image too dark or fuzzy, it's just going to be one more reason for students to mentally disconnect from the class. There is also an issue of comfort for the person using the equipment. If the headset is too tight, it will quickly bother you and your hear may get warm, especially in summer.

Audio equipment should use USB connectors. USB devices are automatically detected by computers and become the default audio source and output. No configuration required. Also, USB audio equipment usually automatically provides echo-canceling. This feature prevents noisy feedback loops that quickly ruin the best online discussion.

This being said, here are some suggestions for equipment that we tested at the School.

Starter package (approximately $70.00)

- Webcam: Logitech C270, HD 720p
- Audio: Microsoft 3000 headset, comfortable with reasonable audio quality. Can get a little warm after a while.

Recommended package (approximately $160.00)

- Webcam: Logitech C920S, HD1080p, high resolution camera, includes a shutter for privacy
- Audio: Logitech H390 USB headset, comfortable, sturdy and of good audio quality

Other options

- Jabra Biz 2300 USB, lighter than the Logitech model, more discreet and very good audio quality
- Samson Meteor, USB table microphone, good audio quality, requires additional speakers
- Clear One, Chat 50, USB table speaker with integrated microphone.