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Blended Approach to Teaching Finite Mathematics at the University of Illinois. Preliminary report.

Finite Mathematics at The University of Illinois has been taught in a blended format for the past two years. Half of the content is delivered online, and half is delivered in the classroom. The online component consists of lectures that cover the course material, and the in-class component consists of group activities. The lecture videos are viewed prior to class. The in-class activities are designed to lead the students through the conceptual understanding of the material covered in the lectures. The primary role of the instructor is to guide the students by giving targeted help when questions arise. As a result, the students, rather than the instructors, are the moving force in the classroom. This leads to better understanding of the material than a lecture-only approach, and allows no students to fall behind unknowingly. We have seen increased student success and student learning, and the course is deployed at a reduced expense. The videos were created in-house, and thus we have maintained control over the content. (Received September 15, 2010)