

Videoconferencing Tool Comparison

ITS offers a variety of conferencing options for all faculty, staff, and students to use at no cost. Use this resource to help make a decision about which tool to use based on the set of features you need.



	Bluejeans Meetings	Canvas Conferences (BigBlueButton)	Google Hangouts Meet	Zoom	Zoom Webinars	Zoom for Health
Recommended use	Small-to-medium discussion classes, staff meetings	Small-to-medium classes focused on materials, where everything is integrated in a single Canvas environment	Backup option for other services (only free option for alumni and retirees)	Staff meetings, training sessions under 300 people	Town halls, classes over 300 or professional conferences	Patient/provider meetings, medical center meetings, research collaboration with PHI
Integrates with Canvas	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
Maximum connections	200	100	250 until 7/1 - then 100	300	500 - 10,000	300
HIPAA compliant for use with PHI	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
Option to allow only U-M authenticated users to join	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Screen share capability	✓	✓	✓	✓	Host, co-host panelist	✓
Q&A option	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗
Chat	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Virtual backgrounds	✗	✗	✗	✓	Host, co-host panelist	✓
Download recordings	Yes, for 90 days	✗	✓	Yes, for 90 days	Yes, for 90 days	Cloud recording disabled for HIPAA - Local recordings only
Annotate screen share	Yes; Current speaker	Yes; Presenter and participants	✗	Yes; Presenter and participants	Yes; Presenter only	✓
Whiteboard	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
Built-in polling	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
Raise hand	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
Breakout rooms	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓
Max participants seen on screen	9	12	4	49	Host and panelist(s)	49
Compatible with high-end room systems	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓

* Functionality varies by product. For complete information, visit its.umich.edu/videoconferencing.