

Back-to-Back Binding in LYNX

LYNX allows you to identify **back-to-back** sections in your SIS, meaning times where the same instructor is teaching one class immediately following another. You often want to schedule these classes in the same room to ensure that the instructor doesn't have to run across campus during the passing period.

You can do this by adding [event bindings](#) to the classes in 25Live, designated with "BTB" in the event name. These bound events behave identically to classes which are cross-listed or combined in your SIS, with the following effects:

- All occurrences in bound meeting patterns have the same location assignment
- Bound meeting patterns do not generate location conflicts with each other
- Unassigning a location from one event will also unassign it from everywhere it is bound

Creating back-to-back bindings is a common step in preparation for running the [Schedule25 Optimizer](#).

Binding Criteria

LYNX helps you determine which sections with the same instructor should be considered "back-to-back" based on four factors:

- **Start date:** if two sections start at different points during a term, you can choose to keep them apart. You might do this because you don't want half-term classes interfering with your scheduling for the entire term. The default is to allow no more than one week's difference in start date.
- **Passing time:** you determine the maximum amount of time that counts for sections to be immediately adjacent. The default value is 10 minutes.
- **Headcount:** decide the maximum variation in expected headcount for back-to-back binding to apply. The purpose of this is to prevent small conferences from being assigned to large lecture halls just because an instructor is teaching a breakout session immediately after the lecture. The default is 50% variation.
- **Assigned location:** sections must not have any location assignments in the SIS. Anything that has already been assigned will not be bound back-to-back. You may optionally turn this criterion off.



Note: Back-to-back Binding Requires That You Map Instructors Via Translation Rules

Once mapped, back-to-back binding will use whichever instructor is mapped to 25Live's built-in "Instructor" role via [translation rules](#).

If you aren't including instructors as contact roles but still want to use back-to-back binding, you can use the following workaround:

1. In LYNX, set **Include Section Instructors** to **Include instructors as event contact roles...**

Include Section Instructors


Whether or not to match SIS instructors to 25Live contacts on import.

- ☐ Include all section instructors as text (Event Description and Event Comments)
- ☒ Include instructors as event contact roles in 25Live in addition to text [See Translation Table](#)
- ☐ Include instructors as event contact roles in 25Live without text
- ☐ Do NOT include section instructors

2. Next, open the [See Translation Table](#) link click **View Translated Results**. Then the refresh button, to initially populate the table.

SIS Instructor Roles to 25Live Event Contacts

This translation determines what event contact role an instructor will have in 25Live based on their level of responsibility as recorded in the SIS. If there is no rule set up for a SIS instructor role, the "else" rule is applied. The "View Translated Results" button shows you which contact roles LYNX will apply based on the current translation rules. For more information on LYNX data translation, click the Help button and choose "Data Translation" from the help menu.

Translation Rules 				
Actions	Qualifier	From SIS Value	To 25Live Value	State
Edit • Delete	Else		Instructor	Active
<div> Add New Rule View Translated Results Back </div>				

3. Finally, switch **Include Section Instructors** to **Do NOT include section instructors**.

This process will fulfill the instructor mapping requirement without requiring you to include instructors in 25Live contact roles.



Note: Primary Reservations

The first member of each back-to-back group is the primary reservation in 25Live, which is used to determine organization preferences for the Schedule25 Optimizer. This cannot be changed in LYNX but can be changed in the manage event bindings menu option in 25Live.

Creating Back-to-Back Bindings

Follow the instructions on the [Managing Data Binding](#) article to navigate to the data binding page for back-to-back sections.

The first time you go to this page, the list will be blank because nothing has been identified as back-to-back yet. Click **Bind Back-to-Back Sections** to begin with the following screen:

Bind Back-to-Back Sections

Find and create groups of back-to-back meeting patterns to be bound on import. Note that running this process will delete existing groups.

Extract Set	Please Select... ▼
Max Weeks of Separation	1
Max Minutes of Separation	10
Expected Head Count Variation (Percentage)	50
Exclude Sections with Preassigned Locations	Yes

Run
Reconfigure
Cancel

Image: Binding Back-to-Back Sections.

On this screen you must choose an [import extract set](#) that you've already defined. LYNX will only look for back-to-back pairs where both sections are part of this extract set.

You also have the opportunity to change the four binding criteria (start date, passing time separation, expected headcount, and preassigned location) described above. Click **Reconfigure** to edit these variables.

When you click **Run**, LYNX finds all the back-to-back sections in your extract set and creates a bound group for them. (Note that a group can contain more than two sections if an instructor has a busy load.) If any section was already part of a back-to-back group, the old group is deleted.



Old Bindings May Be Removed

Be careful when running the binding process on a term where back-to-back bindings already exist, because it could wipe them out!

In particular, watch out for sections which were assigned locations after the original binding was run, since they will no longer be eligible for binding through this process.

After you add these new groups, nothing will change in 25Live until a new import is triggered. This could happen automatically when those sections are updated in the SIS or manually by reviewing and [importing an extract set](#).

You can also trigger an update immediately for the sections in a single group by clicking the "import" link next to its name.


Back-to-Back Sections 			
Actions	Name	Meeting Patterns	State
Delete • Import	Back-to-back 2020WHFA Kohl	2020WHFA 26720 MWF 1055-1200 - 09/02/2020 2020WHFA 26716 MWF 0935-1040 - 09/02/2020	Active
Delete • Import	Back-to-back 2020WHFA Elmore	2020WHFA 26717 MWF 0935-1040 - 09/02/2020 2020WHFA 26713 MWF 0815-0920 - 09/02/2020	Active
Delete • Import	Back-to-back 2020WHFA Nielsen	2020WHFA 27399 TR 1330-1510 - 09/03/2020 2020WHFA 26691 TR 1525-1700 - 09/03/2020	Active
Delete • Import	Back-to-back 2020WHFA Hurst	2020WHFA 27220 TR 0955-1135 - 09/03/2020 2020WHFA 26663 TR 0800-0940 - 09/03/2020	Active

Image: List of back-to-back sections.

Video Demonstration

See our [05/19/2022 webinar](#) at the 36:31 mark to see the delete option, a demonstration of adding a new back-to-back binding, and importing into 25Live.