



Regular and Substantive Interaction in Online Courses

Why Does it Matter?



Federal Regulation



Funding



Research



Student Eligibility



Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 600.2 - Distance education means education that uses [technology] to deliver instruction to students who are separated from the instructor and support **regular and substantive interaction** between the students and the instructor, either synchronously or asynchronously.

What it Means



Must be *with and initiated* by the instructor



Must be *regular* and somewhat frequent



Must be *substantive* or academic in nature.

What it Doesn't Mean

- ~~X~~ *Interaction with TAs and GAs*
- ~~X~~ *Automated answers*
- ~~X~~ *Instructional videos*

While these can help with workload, feedback, and instruction, they're *NOT enough* to qualify under federal regulations for regular and substantive interaction.

For additional assistance, contact an Instructional Designer.

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Examples



Using discussions with the *requirement for dialogue* between learners and the instructor

- Journals, wikis, blogs, and discussion boards can be used.
- The instructor is required to be involved in the discussion.
- The discussion must be relevant to course content.



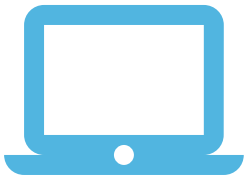
Requiring students to attend *synchronous sessions* to discuss or review course assignments

- Sessions can also be used for online office hours.
- Discussion topics must be relevant to the course content.
- The instructor is required to be active vocally during the session.



Using metacognitive essays that allow students to *reflect on instructor feedback*

- Reflecting on instructor feedback creates two-way dialogue.
- Feedback must be relevant to the content and/or assignments.
- The instructor needs to provide the feedback.



Assigning students to *watch* a webinar or video *and then interact* with the instructor

- Journals, wikis, blogs, and discussion boards can be used.
- The instructor is required to be involved in the interaction.
- The video and interaction must be relevant to course content.



Utilizing *announcements* to advise against common errors or applaud student effort

- Announcements must be relevant to the course content..
- The announcement should focus on course work.
- Due date announcements are not sufficient to meet this requirement.