

Regular Substantive Interaction in Online Courses

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Facilitator Introduction

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What is RSI?



Regular and substantive interaction in distance education means providing meaningful engagement between students and instructors and students to students on consistent basis.



Regular implies interaction occurs with predictable frequency.



Substantive means that the interaction is meaningful and contributes to the learning process.

RSI must be...

- **With an instructor (assumes direct interaction between learner and the instructor)**
- **Initiated by the instructor**
- **Scheduled and predictable**
- **Academic in nature and relevant to the course**

Why is RSI important?

- **Distinguishes distance education from correspondence education**
- **It is required**
 - **ACCJC**
 - **Code of Federal Regulations**
 - **California Code of Regulations**



Why should RSI matter to you?

Beyond the requirement expectation RSI:

- **Fosters deeper understanding**
- **Enhances the learning experience by providing a sense of connection and support**
 - **Connection ensures student success and retention according to research**
- **Enhances Equity**

Activity

In groups of 2-3, discuss one of the following questions:

- **In what ways can students initiate contact with you?**
- **How often do you provide students with feedback on their work and what tools do you use to provide this feedback?**
- **How do you create opportunities for students to interact with one another? What tools do you use?**

**RSI requires direct instruction
from distance education
instructors.**

**Answer in the chat: What are
some examples of "direct
instruction"?**



California
Community
Colleges

California
Virtual Campus

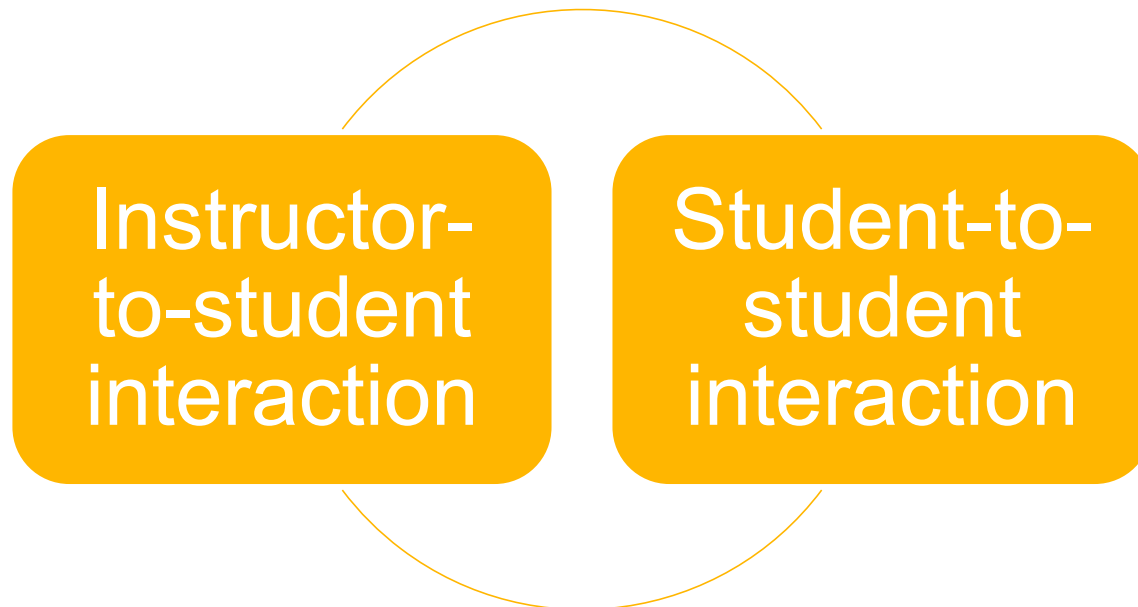
Examples of Direct Instruction

Assessing and/or **providing feedback** on a student's coursework.

Providing **information** or responding to questions about the content of a course.

Facilitating **group discussions**.

Two major elements of RSI





Instructor-Student Interaction

To help manage student expectations, students should know how and when they can expect to hear from their instructors.

Here are some ways to communicate with students:

- **Feedback on assignments using Speedgrader or other tools**
- **Discussion boards**
- **Announcements**
- **Use of “Message Students Who” feature in gradebook**
- **Chat**
- **Office hours**
- **Zoom meetings**



Student-Initiated Contact

Your contact information should be easy to find and located in multiple areas so students are able to contact you when necessary. Students should know how long it will take for you to respond to them.

Answer in the chat: What places might you put your contact info?





Student-to-Student Interaction

Creating opportunities for students to interact with on another in online courses involves intentional design. In face-to-face classrooms, it's easy for students to interact with on another before, during, and after class. Creating an interactive learning experience in online courses is more difficult but really important.

Students tend to learn better when they have opportunities to discuss content with classmates.

Answer in the chat: In what ways can you create opportunities for students to interact with each other in online courses as a natural part of the learning experience?





Structured Student-to-Student Interaction

Some examples of structured student-to-student engagement:

- **Meaningful discussion assignments**
- **Small group discussions to promote meaningful conversation and connection**
- **Ice breaker activities throughout the course (not just at the start) so student can get to know each other**
- **Peer review opportunities**

Utilize Canvas Analytics!

Use New Analytics to:

- View average course grade as an interactive chart graph or a data table
- Compare the course average with an individual assignment, course section, or student filter using the chart graph comparison or data table comparison
- View average weekly online participation analytics as an interactive chart graph or a data table
- Compare the course average weekly online participation analytics with an individual student or section using the chart graph comparison or data table comparison
- Send a message to all students based on specific course grade or participation criteria
- Send a message to an individual student based on specific course grade or participation criteria
- View course grade and participation analytics for an individual student
- View and download reports on missing, late, or excused assignments, class roster, and course activity.

More RSI Resources

- [CVC-OEI Rubric](#)
- [CVC-OEI Student to Student Interaction Guide](#)
- [RSI Checklist](#)

Thank you!

Recorded webinars and a schedule of upcoming events are available at onlinenetworkofeducators.org/spring-2024-webinars.

Email support@cvc with any questions!