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## **Introduction**

The SDCCD Distance Education Handbook has been compiled through a collaborative effort by the Districtwide Distance Education Steering Committee, Faculty Mentors, and the SDCCD Online Learning Pathways staff.

The Handbook is meant to provide faculty with guidelines in developing online courses following best practices and to provide resources regarding Federal and State Regulations, ACCJC Standards for Distance Education, and the related SDCCD Board Policies and Procedures.

The Handbook is posted at: [SDCCD Distance Education Handbook](https://www.sdccd.edu/about/departments-and-offices/instructional-services-division/online-learning-pathways-1/faculty/de_handbook.aspx)

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## **SDCCD Online Learning Pathways History**

SDCCD Online Learning Pathways (SDOLP) was created in 2001 as part of a District Technology Innovation Grant. The then president of Miramar College was coordinator of the grant and formed a steering committee. The steering committee assisted in the hiring of a dean, instructional designer, and an administrative assistant. The new dean worked with faculty and administrators to guide the direction of SDOLP. Today, SDCCD Online Learning Pathways continues to expand the support faculty receive through the 8,000+ classes, 800 online certificates awarded, and over 2,000 workshop attendees throughout the 20/21 academic year. The mission of SDOLP is to provide distance education faculty and students with resources and to grow the number of online courses in the district. SDCCD Online Learning Pathways adheres to the following core values and services to assure distance education quality:

1. To provide high-quality instructional services to our teaching-learning community—the faculty, staff, and students of City, Mesa, Miramar, and Continuing Education.
2. To foster instructional leadership in the adoption of best practices for the use of technology to promote educational effectiveness.
3. To promote quality innovative approaches to teaching and learning via technology-mediated instruction.

With the continued support from faculty and administrators, SDCCD Online Learning Pathways has developed the Online Faculty Certificate Program, workshops, and summits for distance education. The Districtwide Distance Education Steering Committee continues to help guide SDOLP, promote online learning, and provide recommendations for distance education.

##

## **Procedures**

### **Learning Management System**

The District has adopted Canvas as the supported Learning Management System (LMS). The LMS provides tools for instruction to support communication, assessments, grade book, and much more.

Faculty are also encouraged to use Canvas because of the additional benefits it provides, which would be challenging to provide with an unsupported system, such as student/faculty helpdesk support, authentication, information security, demonstrating regular and substantive interactions, embedded student support services, and providing student data for audits.

### **Instructional Shells**

All teaching (instructional) course shells are automatically created. Teaching shells become available once the class schedule is completed (usually a month prior to student registration).

Faculty are encouraged to develop their courses in development shells prior to loading content into teaching shells. To request a development shell, please contact Canvas Faculty Support using:

* The Canvas Faculty Support Help Desk (844) 612-7422
* Or Contacting [Canvas Support by using the Chat feature](https://cases.canvaslms.com/liveagentchat?chattype=student)

Please have your 10-digit ID ready and indicate that you are with the San Diego Community College District.

After your teaching shells have been automatically created, you will need to transfer your development shell content to your teaching shells.

### **Online Students**

Students are sent a welcome email approximately one week prior to their class starting. The letter provides students with information regarding when courses may open, to check the instructor’s syllabi, Canvas support, technical requirements, and online student training & orientation.

Students are loaded into teaching shells approximately one month prior to the course starting. By default students won’t see the course until the information is published and made available. Faculty are encouraged to make their [course available prior to the first day](https://www.sdccd.edu/about/departments-and-offices/instructional-services-division/online-learning-pathways-1/faculty/past-enrollments-canvas.aspx) for students to make sure they have access to the course, become familiar with the layout, and have access to any important announcements.

### **Course Archives**

SDOLP maintains the District’s learning management system (Canvas) that offers a platform for online courses to be offered. Course archives are the instructor's responsibility to save, if desired. Academic grade records should be kept for a minimum of two years since student’s can ‘challenge’ a grade within that period. See [BP 3001](https://www.sdccd.edu/docs/District/policies/Student%20Services/BP%203001.pdf) and procedures AP [5040](https://www.sdccd.edu/docs/District/procedures/Student%20Services/AP%205040.pdf) and [AP 3001.2](https://www.sdccd.edu/docs/District/procedures/Student%20Services/AP%203001_02.pdf)

### **Instructor of Record**

The instructor of record is the main instructor of the course as assigned by the dean. When you are assigned a course, the District will automatically create a course shell for you and populate it with your student enrollment. SDOLP cannot change the instructor of record. Unless permitted, instructors may not self-enroll students or visitors to their courses.

### **Instructor Removal/Access Denied**

When an instructor of record is changed in the District’s system, the original instructor will have access to the course unless requested for removal.

### **Substitute**

In cases where the instructor of record is absent for a period of time (due to illness or inability to continue teaching the class), the Dean will assign a substitute and change the instructor of record. Please be aware that the substitute may use material already loaded into the Canvas teaching shell to complete the course.

### **Access to Courses**

Only instructors of record automatically gain access to their courses. Additional access to courses may be granted with the instructor’s permission. SDOLP may, from time to time, access courses to resolve technical issues that students may have. Any changes to courses by SDOLP must be requested by the instructor of record. For evaluation purposes, instructors may request from crodgers@sdccd.edu access for the evaluators or add them on their own, as set forth in the Faculty Handbook.

## **Online Faculty Certification Program (OFCP)**

Currently, City, Mesa, Miramar, and Continuing Education faculty are required to complete the OFCP in order to receive online teaching assignments. The [OFCP webpage](https://www.sdccd.edu/about/departments-and-offices/instructional-services-division/online-learning-pathways-1/faculty/Online%20Faculty%20Certification%20Program.aspx) provides enrollment information. Beginning each July 1, participation in the program awards flex credit.

## **Online Student Attendance and Participation**

As an online instructor, you may hear things like "clearing your roster" early in the semester and reporting the "last date of attendance" when a student drops.

Clearing your course roster and dropping students who aren't participating will open space for others to be added and start the class without being too far behind. Be wary of inactive students who do not participate in your courses early in the semester, as these student accounts have the potential of being used for financial aid fraud.

Steps to contact and verify intent for the student to participate in the course is possible. However, a lack of online **academic attendance via an academically related activity** in a distance education program **should result in that student being dropped from the course.** Reporting the last date of attendance of students who withdraw is a requirement of federal financial aid.

Examples of acceptable evidence of academic attendance and attendance at an **academically related activity** in a distance education program include:

* student submission of an academic assignment,
* student completion of an assessment or exam,
* student completion of a quiz,
* student participation in an interactive discussion,
* student participation in an interactive tutorial, live streaming meeting, or other interactive computer-assisted instruction,
* student participation in a study group, group project, or online discussion that is assigned by the institution,
* student interaction with the instructor about academic matters, and
* an email from the student or other documentation showing that the student-initiated contact with a faculty member to ask a question about the academic subject studied in the course.

Attendance for distance education consists of further substantive actions of the student demonstrating engagement in an academically related activity. **Student activity such as only logging onto the online class (Canvas) is not sufficient to meet academic attendance standards.** [Federal financial aid regulations (see p. 5-65) state that:](https://fsapartners.ed.gov/sites/default/files/attachments/2019-09/1920FSAHbkVol5Master_0.pdf)

In a distance education context, documenting that a student has logged into an online class is not sufficient, by itself, to demonstrate academic attendance by the student. A school must demonstrate that a student participated in class or was otherwise engaged in an academically related activity, such as by contributing to an online discussion or initiating contact with a faculty member to ask a course-related question.

It is recommended that many instructors require participation in an introductory discussion forum or completion of a syllabus quiz within the first few days of class and drop students who do not participate.

Upon withdrawal of a student or drop of a student. **The instructor will be responsible to report and determine the last time a student had completed any of the academically related activities listed prior.** For more details on the process visit the [Faculty Resource Handbook](https://faculty.sdccd.edu/docs/manual.pdf) (Section D) and [Administrative Procedure 5070](https://www.sdccd.edu/docs/District/procedures/Student%20Services/AP%205070.pdf) for the definitions of college class attendance at the SDCCD.

Instructors are also required to manage an attendance policy for their online classes. This policy can be flexible to suit the needs of the course and students, but should be clear to what constitutes attendance, regular substantive contact requirements, and equity-mindedness. The [sample syllabus](https://docs.google.com/document/d/10N5lanFXVJ2nWOiK2CLFMrItnNGk631PaV62pKXQeus/edit) included in this handbook provides clear examples of what an attendance policy should entail.

## **Academic Integrity**

In an online course, students must do more than just login in order to demonstrate participation. Students should be required to perform activities that demonstrate meaningful participation, such as posting in discussion threads, submitting assignments, and taking quizzes. Here are examples of how to implement student authentication strategies and academic integrity in your online classes:

* Require written work from students on a weekly basis (discussions, assignments, and/or essays).
* Ask students to critique each other’s drafts of papers on the discussion forum or via email.
* Use a variety of assessments, for example, quizzes, projects, portfolios or group work.
* Use a plagiarism detection tool and make the plagiarism reports available to students.

Students are expected to uphold honest academic conduct for all distance education courses and should adhere to the [SDCCD AP 3100.3](https://www.sdccd.edu/docs/District/procedures/Student%20Services/AP%203100_03.pdf) which defines cheating, plagiarism, and possible academic and administrative sanctions for any breaches of student academic integrity. The Online Learning Pathways encourages methods to increase academic integrity and honesty in online settings and further resources can be found on the [SDCCD DE Resources Canvas Shell.](https://sdccd.instructure.com/courses/2383316/pages/increasing-academic-integrity?module_item_id=39415092)

## **Curriculum and Instruction**

Fully online or partially online courses undergo the same curriculum review and approval process as do face-to-face courses. For a course to be approved for distance education delivery, the distance education curriculum undergoes a separate review that requires the curriculum originator to input the following distance education-specific information into the Continuing Education Distance Education Addendum or credit colleges’ [CurricUNET](https://www.curricunet.com/sdccd/)
 [(https://www.curricunet.com/sdccd/](https://sdccd0-my.sharepoint.com/personal/bweston_sdccd_edu/Documents/%28https%3A/www.curricunet.com/sdccd/))

**Techniques used to ensure quality**: List the techniques you will use to ensure that the same standards of course quality will be applied to the distance education course as to the face-to-face course.

**Evaluation Method**: Describe how you will evaluate whether the students taking this course have achieved the learning outcomes as specified in the course objectives.

**Additional Resources**: Specify the additional resources, materials, and/or information that may be necessary for you to provide to a diverse student population, including students with disabilities, to ensure the standards of course quality and student success are achieved.

* [Board Policy 3306](https://www.sdccd.edu/docs/District/policies/Student%20Services/BP%203306.pdf) for Course Materials Adoption and Procurement:
* [Guidelines for Required Instructional Materials](https://www.cccco.edu/-/media/CCCCO-Website/About-Us/Divisions/Educational-Services-and-Support/Academic-Affairs/What-we-do/Curriculum-and-Instruction-Unit/Files/InstructionalMaterialsGuidelines12813pdf) in the California Community Colleges
* [WebAim](https://sdccd0-my.sharepoint.com/personal/bweston_sdccd_edu/Documents/https/webaim.org)

**ADA Statement:**

Distance education techniques used in this course will be accessible to individuals with disabilities (Sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act). Requests for technology accommodations will be met by working with the Adaptive Technology Specialist to ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

**Contact Type**: Define the types of contact between the instructor and students, and among students and the frequency of each contact type.

Once approved by the Colleges, the distance education courses are then subject to review and approval by the Districtwide Curriculum and Instructional Council (CIC), SDCCD Board of Trustees, and State Chancellor’s Office. A list of [approved online distance education courses](https://www.sdccd.edu/docs/ISPT/instsrv/Curriculum/DistanceEd/DE_Approved_List.xlsx) is updated regularly and posted to the Instructional Services website

Instructors are assigned by their college departments to teach distance education courses in either a fully online or partially online delivery mode.

## **Accessibility of Distance Learning Courses and Students with Disabilities**

In planning or revising a distance learning course, it is important to employ principles of Universal Design to ensure that your course is usable and accessible to all students SDCCD [AP 5105](https://www.sdccd.edu/docs/District/procedures/Instructional%20Services/AP%205105.pdf). Understanding potential barriers that a course may pose to students with disabilities will help you ensure the accessibility of your course as you design or revise it.

Ensuring accessibility expands the market for distance learning courses supports the open enrollment policies of the California Community College system, and is required by policy and law. The [Accessibility of Distance Learning Courses for Students with Disabilities document](http://www.sdccdonline.net/faculty/resources/Accessible_Distance_Learning_Courses.pdf) covers legal requirements, CCC Chancellor’s Guidelines, and common accessibility examples.

For information on services and tools made available through the California Community College Chancellor’s Office CVC-OEI grant, please visit CVC.edu. For other web and information technology accessibility needs, please visit the [CCC Accessibility Center](https://cccaccessibility.org/).

The guidelines are comprehensive and include strategies for addressing access concerns with all distance learning formats, including online education. In addition, see [Board Policy 3108 on Accessibility Standards for Electronic and Information Technology](https://www.sdccd.edu/docs/District/policies/Student%20Services/BP%203108.pdf)—Section 508

## **Student Code of Conduct**

Guidelines for the Student Code of Conduct for online classes have been developed in accordance with [Board Policy 5500](https://www.sdccd.edu/docs/District/policies/Student%20Services/BP%205500.pdf) and the [Student Code of Conduct for Online Courses](https://sdccd0-my.sharepoint.com/%3Aw%3A/g/personal/ptea_sdccd_edu/ETV4E7oBzS5DkBukNvBeZZsBbsLkJF60FyZ3XFoq3vufyA?e=dUI34U)

Students are expected to adhere to the Student Code of Conduct at all times. Students who violate the Student Code of Conduct may be removed from class by the faculty for the class meeting in which the behavior occurred, and the next class meeting. Access for students to online class may be removed for one week (5 instructional days) for violation of the code of conduct.

## **Camera Recommendations**

[The following recommendations](https://www.sdccd.edu/about/departments-and-offices/instructional-services-division/online-learning-pathways-1/faculty/recording_options.aspx) will cover practices for making and using instructional video and audio recordings with students, along with best practices around recording class sessions and asking students to use a camera during live class sessions. The appendix includes templates you may wish to use.

Instructors sometimes record live class sessions so that students can watch a missed class session or review an earlier session, in order to comply with an authorized DSP&S accommodation, or for the instructor to share with a future class. Depending on who is identifiable in the recording, the recordings may constitute educational records that are protected under the [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA](https://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html)). The following provides various scenarios and approaches to ensure compliance with FERPA when recording live class session.

Additional information about photos, video, and audio recording under FERPA can be found in the [US Department of Education FAQs on Photos and Videos under FERPA.](https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/faq/faqs-photos-and-videos-under-ferpa) California [Chancellor’s Office Legal Opinion 2012-12](https://www.cccco.edu/-/media/CCCCO-Website/Files/Communications/COVID-19/es-20-16-support-for-disabled-students-guidance-memo.pdf?la=en&hash=58D004A55307F200FD9F51FF34A63F2380976F7C) was sent out on October 19th to clarify the requirement of camera use.

This document refers to live class sessions as a broad term recognizing both methods asynchronous (no set required meeting times) or synchronous (required/regular set meeting times) using multiple online conferencing platforms such as ConferZoom, Pronto, and Microsoft Teams.

[Contact your campus DSP&S Department](https://www.sdccd.edu/about/departments-and-offices/student-services-department/dsps/contact.aspx) for any specific student accommodation requests or support
Send questions and inquiries regarding these recommendations to [SDCCD Online Learning Pathways Department.](https://www.sdccd.edu/about/departments-and-offices/instructional-services-division/online-learning-pathways-1/contact.aspx)

## **Netiquette**

Netiquette is the combination of the words Internet and etiquette that refers to the customary code of polite behavior in online settings such as discussion boards, emails, chat messages, and synchronous class meetings.
The following suggestions on proper online behavior are to help ensure success in your courses at the San Diego Community College District. Just as in a campus-based classroom, there is appropriate conduct for an online classroom. For example, netiquette dictates that using all capital letters in an email is like shouting.
Send questions and inquiries regarding these guidelines to the [SDCCD Online Learning Pathways Department.](https://www.sdccd.edu/about/departments-and-offices/instructional-services-division/online-learning-pathways-1/contact.aspx)

## **Copyright**

Guidelines for the use of copyrighted materials were developed by a District- wide Copyright Guidelines Committee. For faculty, the bargaining agreement states that, “The copyrights to works created by faculty members will be owned by them, even if those works (e.g., class notes recorded by students, syllabi, lectures, student exercises, multimedia programs, and tests) are created in connection with courses they teach, or other duties they perform as faculty members, while they are employed by the District and in connection with their employment, unless the work is created under the circumstances described in paragraph 26.4.2.1”

[SDCCD Copyright Information](https://www.sdccd.edu/about/departments-and-offices/instructional-services-division/copyright.aspx)

## **Effective Practices: Title 5 Regulations Distance Education Guidelines Summary**

California DE classes must abide by Title 5 regulation and must be designed to alleviate “Student access issues related to geographical, cultural, disability, and facility barriers.” SDCCD is committed to adhering to the Distance Education Guidelines as set forth by the Chancellor’s Office and to SDCCD Board Policies and Procedures. The following is a summary of the Title 5 Regulations and local Board Policies and Procedures.

### [**Section 55200**](https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs/Document/I1E35BBE3B57046F0ABD056DC4E8F0E73?viewType=FullText&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=CategoryPageItem&contextData=(sc.Default)) **- Definition and Application**

The definition and application for Distance Education to this section is “instruction in which the instructor and student are separated by distance and interact through the assistance of communication technology.” That might include video conference software in classes that aren’t formally coded as online classes at the SDCCD. This section explicitly endorses education initiatives that colleges might develop using these technologies, and also mentions the need for faculty to receive appropriate training in using them. Most of this section is devoted to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) requirements and advises in methods to ensure that students with disabilities receive maximum opportunities to access distance education classes: “anytime, anywhere” learning, closed and open captioning, etc. ([CCC Accessibility Guidelines and Practices](https://cccaccessibility.org/alternate-media/guidelines-practices)). It also reminds us that “each DE course and its associated materials and resources be reviewed and revised, as necessary, when the course undergoes curriculum review…every six years.”

### [**Section 55202**](https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs/Document/ID9D0875CA1654E86BE030FA2F2B78C04?viewType=FullText&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=CategoryPageItem&contextData=(sc.Default)) **- Course Quality Standards**

This section clarifies that “normal course quality standards apply to any portion of a course conducted through distance education.” It emphasizes the need for the involvement of faculty in the design, application and quality review of these courses. [CCC Program and Course Approval Handbook](https://www.cccco.edu/-/media/CCCCO-Website/Reports/CCCCO_Report_Program_Course_Approval-web-102819.pdf?la=en&hash=06918DD585E9F8C0805334FEA3EB1E6872C22F16).

### [**Section 55204**](https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs/Document/I30AFD0EF02B449E187E6485AB412054F?viewType=FullText&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=CategoryPageItem&contextData=(sc.Default)) **- Regular Substantive Interaction**

“Regular substantive contact between instructor and students, and among students” is required in all classes, and this section lists numerous ways to achieve that in DE classes: group or individual meetings, review and study sessions, voice mail, e-mail, etc. Documentation of these methods is required. This guideline “stresses the responsibility of the instructor in a DE course to initiate regular substantive contact with enrolled students to verify their participation and performance status.”

For purposes of this definition, substantive interaction is engaging students in teaching, learning, and assessment, consistent with the content under discussion, and also includes at least two of the following -

* + *Providing direct instruction;*
	+ *Assessing or providing feedback on a student's coursework;*
	+ *Providing information or responding to questions about the content of a course or competency;*
	+ *Facilitating a group discussion regarding the content of a course or competency; or*
	+ *Other instructional activities approved by the institution's or program's accrediting agency.*

An institution ensures regular interaction between a student and an instructor or instructors by, prior to the student's completion of a course or competency -

* + Providing the opportunity for substantive interactions with the student on a predictable and scheduled basis commensurate with the length of time and the amount of content in the course or competency; and
	+ Monitoring the student's academic engagement and success and ensuring that an instructor is responsible for promptly and proactively engaging in substantive interaction with the student when needed on the basis of such monitoring, or upon request by the student.

Students who are not participating in courses must be dropped, unless there are extenuating circumstances. Since there are few or no meetings for some DE courses, the basis for an instructor to determine whether a student is actively enrolled as of the census date should be based on this “regular and substantive” contact requirement. Census rosters must be cleared of inactive enrollment as of the census date, which includes:

* No shows
* Students who have officially withdrawn
* Students who have been dropped from the course

Local policies and instructor directives/guidance must be developed for appropriate clearing of course rosters, including for distance education courses.

### [**Section 55206**](https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs/Document/I17CDFA4650794F79B801F22BDD8A83F1?viewType=FullText&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=CategoryPageItem&contextData=(sc.Default)) **- Curriculum: Separate Course Approval**

Separate course approval is required if “any portion of the instruction of a course is designed to be regularly provided through distance education.” This section clarifies the so-called “51% rule,” namely, that only those courses with 51% or more DE are reported as DE, but that ANY class with contact hours offered through DE must undergo a separate approval process. For SDCCD, this would include partially online and hybrid courses.

### [**Section 55208**](https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs/Document/I39FCEC371E8047A7BBF827F9D6BF3DAA?viewType=FullText&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=CategoryPageItem&contextData=(sc.Default)) **- Faculty Selection and Workload**

DE instructors should be selected by the same procedures used to determine all instructional assignments. The number of students assigned to any one DE section should be consistent with other district procedures.

### [**Section 55210**](https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs/Document/ID2A31BD0D48411DEBC02831C6D6C108E?viewType=FullText&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=CategoryPageItem&contextData=(sc.Default)) **- Ongoing Responsibility of Districts**

All classes reported as DE classes need to maintain records and report data on the number of students and faculty participating in them through the Chancellor’s Office Management Information System (MIS) by August 31 of each year.

### [**Section 58003.1**](https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs/Document/IB328D4B0D48511DEBC02831C6D6C108E?viewType=FullText&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=CategoryPageItem&contextData=(sc.Default)) **- Fiscal Support**

The calculation for DE Full Time Equivalent Students (FTES) for credit DE courses can be calculated in one of four ways:

1. Weekly Student Contact (Weekly Census--DE courses that are regularly scheduled)
2. Daily Student Contact Hours (Daily Census)
3. Actual Hours of Attendance (Positive Attendance)
4. Alternative Attendance (Alternative)

For more information on attendance accounting, please refer to the [CCC Attendance Accounting Manual](https://www.cccco.edu/-/media/CCCCO-Website/College-Finance-and-Facilities/Manuals/SAAM-2020/2020-saam-a11y.pdf?la=en&hash=29787106CFC0BE3C455762A5AC1928C3E7490F7D) and the full [California Community Colleges Distance Education Guidelines, 2008 Omnibus Version](http://www.sdccdonline.net/handbook/de_guidelines_081408.pdf).

## **Syllabus**

Each course syllabus should reflect a humanized, equitable, student-centered approach to teaching:

Humanizing leverages learning science and culturally responsive teaching to create an inclusive, equitable online class climate for today's diverse students. When you teach online, it is easy to relate to your students simply as names on a screen. But your students are much more than that. They are capable, resilient humans who bring an array of perspectives and knowledge to your class. They also bring life experiences shaped by racism, poverty, and social marginalization. In humanized online courses, positive instructor-student relationships are prioritized and serve "as the connective tissue between students, engagement, and rigor" (Pacansky-Brock et al., 2020, p. 2). In any learning modality, human connection is the antidote for the emotional disruption that prevents many students from performing to their full potential and in online courses, creating that connection is even more important (Jaggars & Xu, 2016).

*Pacansky-Brock, M. (2020). How and Why to Humanize Your Online Class.* [*Brocansky.com.*](https://brocansky.com/humanizing/infographic2)

### **Liquid Syllabus**

One of many ways to begin implementing a humanized pedagogy is to start with a liquid syllabus in your course and curriculum. A liquid syllabus is a web based, pre-semester syllabus, emailed to your students a week before instruction begins. It is delivered via a modern, mobile first website and contains the following:

* A brief, imperfect welcome video.
* A learning pact detailing what your students can expect from you and what you'll expect of them.
* A teaching philosophy that conveys diversity as a value.
* Tips for success.
* Week one due dates and required materials.
* A link to log into your course.

*Pacansky-Brock, M. (2020). How and Why to Humanize Your Online Class.* [*Brocansky.com.*](https://brocansky.com/humanizing/infographic2)

### **Sample Course Syllabus**

A link to a [sample course syllabus](https://docs.google.com/document/d/10N5lanFXVJ2nWOiK2CLFMrItnNGk631PaV62pKXQeus/edit?usp=sharing) for online classes is available to download on the Online Learning Pathways website. The sample course syllabus contains unique items for online learning, including Assessment Methods, Netiquette Guidelines, Camera Guidelines, Grading, Course Policies, Accessibility of Course Material, Technical Requirements, and Canvas Orientation Material. Inclusion of these items may help to alleviate student frustration and confusion when taking their online courses.

## **The California Virtual Campus (CVC)**

CVC is an initiative of the CCC Chancellor's Office, funded by the California legislature in 2013 in support of Governor Jerry Brown's Online Education Initiative proposal. The CVC is one of three major initiatives—including the Education Planning Initiative and the Common Assessment Initiative—that are expected to integrate, improve, and evolve existing technology services on behalf of California's community college students ([About the CVC](https://cvc.edu/about-the-oei/)).

The mission of the [California Virtual Campus](https://cvc.edu/) (previously the Online Education Initiative - California Virtual Campus (OEI/CVC) is to dramatically increase the number of California Community Colleges (CCC) students who obtain college associate degrees and transfer to four-year colleges each year by providing online courses and services within a statewide CCC Online Education Ecosystem (OEE).

Special attention will be given to ensuring retention and success through basic skills support and other support services, especially for underserved and underrepresented cohort groups.

As part of the initiative, staff development opportunities will be made available, including an online certification course, based on the Course Design Rubric for the Online Education Initiative (below). The OEI Professional Development task force developed the rubric to outline “good practice” in online course design.

## **Course Design Rubric**

### **Online Course Review Information**

[**The OEI Course Design Rubric**](https://onlinenetworkofeducators.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/CVC_OEI_Course_Design_Rubric_rev_April_2020.pdf) was developed in 2014 and most currently revised in 2020 by the OEI Professional Development work group to ensure that all courses offered as part of the initiative promote student success and meet existing regulatory and accreditation requirements. It has undergone revisions and updates in response to changes in available instructional technology and feedback from both instructors and reviewers.

Courses that are peer reviewed and aligned to the OEI Course Design Rubric have met the CCC’s highest level of design standards to support online student success and can be made available for cross enrollment to students at participating colleges.

The Rubric is divided into four sections (A-D):

**Section A: Content Presentation**

The 14 elements for quality course design in this section address how content is organized and accessed in the course management system. Key elements include course navigation, learning objectives, and access to student support information.

**Section B: Interaction**

The six elements in this section address instructor-initiated and student-initiated communication. Key elements of quality course design covered in this section include regular substantive contact, both between and among instructors and students

.

**Section C: Assessment**

The eight elements in this section address the variety and effectiveness of assessments within the course. Key elements include the alignment of objectives and assessments, the clarity of instructions for completing activities, and evidence of timely and regular feedback.

Following a review by a team of trained faculty peer reviewers, each element in Sections A-C will be marked in one of three ways:

* **Incomplete:** The element is missing or present to a degree that does not adequately support student success in online learning.
* **Aligned:** The element is present and effectively designed to support student success in online learning.
* **Additional Exemplary Elements:** This designation recognizes design choices that are aligned and go even further to enhance the student experience in the online learning environment.

**SECTION D: Accessibility**

The 16 elements in this section are reviewed to determine if a student using assistive technologies will be able to access the instructor’s course content as required by Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (also known as “508 Compliance”). The accessibility elements in Section D focus on instructor-generated content that is primarily under the control of faculty when developing a course. Since Section D addresses elements that are required to be present, the elements in this section, when applicable, are only marked as **Incomplete or Aligned.**

Reference the [Accessibility of Distance Learning Courses for Students with Disabilities document](http://www.sdccdonline.net/faculty/resources/Accessible_Distance_Learning_Courses.pdf) for more information. Visit CVC.edu for more information on the OEI, the Rubric, and the Course Review Process. We welcome your feedback and suggestions.

## **Peralta Online Equity Rubric**

The [Peralta Equity Rubric](https://web.peralta.edu/de/equity-initiative/equity/) is a research-based course (re)design evaluation instrument to help instructors make online course experiences more equitable for all students.

The Equity Rubric is designed to be used in conjunction with the OEI Course Design Rubric. The Peralta Equity Rubric’s criteria are as follows.

**E1: Technology**

Assessing students’ access to technology in the course.

**E2: Student Resources and Support**

Assessing students’ access to different types of support (both academic and non-academic) in the course.

**E3: Universal Design for Learning (UDL)**

Assessing how well the course follows universal design for learning principles.

**E4: Diversity and Inclusion**

Assessing the course and instructor’s commitment to diversity and inclusion.

**E5: Images and representation**

Assessing image and representation bias in the course.

**E6: Human Bias**

Assessing implicit bias and interaction bias in the course.

**E7: Content Meaning**

Assessing content and its meaning in the course.

**E8: Connection and Belonging**

Assessing how well the course helps students make connections (e.g., between course topics and their lives; with the other students).

## **Faculty Training and Support**

### **One on One Training**

By request, SDOLP offers training on a one-on-one basis. If you would like to request a one hour session, send an email request to the following addresses.

Chris Rodgers: crodgers@sdccd.edu

Trenton Tidwell: ttidwell@sdccd.edu

Peter Tea: ptea@sdccd.edu

### **Online Faculty Webinars**

SDCCD's Online Learning Pathways will be hosting online webinars to help faculty learn Zoom, Canvas, and more for online learning. Visit our [Faculty Training page](https://www.sdccd.edu/about/departments-and-offices/instructional-services-division/online-learning-pathways-1/faculty/faculty%20training.aspx) to learn more about upcoming webinars.

### **Online Faculty Certification Program**

The SDCCD Online Learning Pathways Online Faculty Training course is self-paced and fully online with the faculty member enrolled simultaneously in two training course sites: one as a student along with a cohort of other faculty trainees and one as an instructor to demonstrate proficiency in the training objectives. Trainees progress through the self-paced modules with guidance and feedback provided by SDCCD Online Learning Pathways staff.

For SDCCD faculty, this is an opportunity to learn new tools and features for online instruction, and also to be updated on the latest Distance Education State and Federal regulations. There are 7 modules and the estimated time to complete this course is 20 hours. However, your time commitment will vary based upon your own level of experience with web technologies.

Check out the [**Course Outline**](https://www.sdccd.edu/docs/ISPT/online/OFCPsyllabus.pdf)to learn more about this program. If you would like to register for this program, email Peter Tea (ptea@sdccd.edu) to request a link to the enrollment form.

## **Appendix A. Faculty Agreement**

[Faculty Agreements](https://www.sdccd.edu/about/departments-and-offices/human-resources/employee-relations/collective-bargaining-agreements.aspx) can be found on the HR website, which include intellectual property rights, evaluations, professional development, and more.

To access a copy of BP 5500, go to the [Board Policy webpage](https://www.sdccd.edu/about/leadership/board-of-trustees/board-policies/index.aspx) and click on “Student Services.”

To find a copy of the SDCCD Student Code of Conduct Guidelines for Online Classes please visit the [“Student Code of Conduct Guidelines for Online Classes,”](https://www.sdccd.edu/docs/District/policies/Student%20Services/BP%205500.pdf)

## **Appendix B. Copyright**

[SDCCD Guidelines for Use of Copyrighted Material](https://www.sdccd.edu/docs/ISPT/copyright/SDCCD_Copyright_Guidelines.pdf) are to help faculty, staff and students comply with U S Copyright law and to make informed decisions about copyright.

Additional information can be found on the [SDCCD Copyright website](https://www.sdccd.edu/docs/ISPT/copyright/SDCCD_Copyright_Guidelines.pdf).

## **Appendix C. Competencies Checklist**

### **Checklist of Competencies for Designing and Teaching Using Canvas**

#### **Create and Manage Course Content**

**Overview**

Course content is the core of the online course and affects student learning outcomes, student retention and student success. A well-trained instructor spends less time with the technical aspects of the course and more time teaching and interacting with students.

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| **Understand File Formats:** |
| * Identify compatible (and incompatible) file formats and naming conventions in Canvas.
* Identify applications that you can use to create graphic, text, and zip files for Canvas.
* Understand the requirements of students using PCs, Macs, or mobile devices to access your course and content.
* Name the types of files that can be viewed with a web browser and those that require plug-ins or additional software.
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| **Manage Files in Your Course:** |
| * Demonstrate the process of uploading a file from your computer to the Canvas Files section for a specific course, to the All My Files section for multiple courses, to Canvas Studio, and when to use each one.
* Upload, download, and delete various types of files (.gif, .html, .jpg, .zip, .docx, .pdf., txt).
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| **Creating and Editing Course Content:**  |
| * Understand how to change between instructor and student views.
* Describe when to toggle student view on or off.
* Edit using the Rich Content Editor (RCE).
* Edit HTML using the RCE’s Raw HTML Editor.
* Reposition items in the Course Menu, Home page, and other Canvas Pages.
* Add Prerequisites and Requirements for releasing content with Modules.
* Identify other applications that you can use to create media content for Canvas.
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| **Create Web Pages (HTML Files):** |
| * Identify the areas within Canvas where HTML can be created and the pros/cons of using HTML.
* Explain why most designers create files outside of Canvas and then upload them to Canvas Files.
* Identify principles of quality web page design.
* Explain how to use the Rich Content Editor and Raw HTML Editor in Canvas.
* Identify other applications that you can use to create HTML files.
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| **Adding items into Modules:** |
| * Add, edit, and delete Assignments.
* Add, edit, and delete Pages.
* Add, edit, and delete Discussions.
* Add, edit, and delete Quizzes.
* Add, edit, and delete Quiz questions and answers.
* Add, edit, and delete External URLs.
* Add a link to an External Tool (LTI/app).
* Add Prerequisites and Requirements for releasing content.
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| **Know when to use audio and video clips:** |
| * Add, edit, and delete video and audio clips from Canvas Pages, Assignments, Discussions, and Quizzes.
* Add, edit, and delete video from Canvas Studio.
* Understand compatible file types for audio and video to be read via the web.
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| **Important Content Issues:** |
| * Understand size restrictions for files and the impact large files may have on students and the server.
* Be aware of copyright restrictions and fair use policies.
* Provide accessibility for students with disabilities.
* Provide clear directions that will help students navigate through content.
 |

#### **Communicate with Students**

**Overview**

An effective online instructor will use the Canvas communication tools to facilitate student-to-teacher and student-to-student interactions. Regular, substantive, instructor-initiated contact and contact among students are accreditation requirements and required by Title 5. The built-in communication tools facilitate discussion of course concepts, increase understanding of content, and allow for community building within a course.

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| **Course Content page (Homepage):** |
| * Employ attributes of the text on your Home page to increase readability and accessibility, and to create a professional “look and feel.”
* Use images that add relevance or personality to your Homepage.
* Organize your Home page content to improve clarity and orientation for your students.
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| **Grade Center:** |
| * Understand how to access the Gradebook and the students' Grades link.
* Describe the Gradebook tool and the benefits of allowing students to see their own grades.
* Understand how to make a grading rubric.
* Create and manage Gradebook columns.
* Grade different areas of the course, including discussions, assignments, and quizzes.
* Use the “Message Students Who” feature.
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| **Canvas Conversations, Announcements and Discussion Tools:**  |
| * Describe the educational relevance of communication tools.
* Manage Canvas Conversations.
* Identify the Canvas areas with built-in Conversations capabilities.
* Provide course protocol, netiquette rules and directions so students can make the most of these tools.
* Identify difficulties new students may have when sending and reading Conversations.
* Understand the features of Canvas Announcements.
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| **Within the Discussion tool:** |
| * Create Discussions.
* Read and reply to posts.
* Add media to Discussions.
* Search for replies.
* Work with configuration options.
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| **Zoom Video Conferencing:**[SDCCD Camera Guidelines](https://www.sdccd.edu/about/departments-and-offices/instructional-services-division/online-learning-pathways-1/faculty/recording_options.aspx) |
| * Explain what Zoom is and what role it plays in the online course.
* Explain how Zoom and its whiteboard can be used as communication tools.
* Describe the primary tools in Zoom.
* Describe the Zoom whiteboard and its features.
* In Zoom’s whiteboard, draw, modify, and change attributes.
* Cite examples of how educators use Zoom in their courses.
* Cite some examples of how educators use Zoom’s whiteboard in meaningful ways.
* Identify how to record Zoom meetings and how students can use them later.
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| **Pronto:** |
| * Describe Pronto and its features.
* Cite examples of how to use Pronto and chat in an online course.
* Send a private message in Pronto.
* Know how to troubleshoot and communicate common Pronto problems.
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| **Calendar Tool:** |
| * Add/update and delete entries.
* Calendar Settings.
* Describe the potential impact of Calendar on the overall course design and organization.
 |

#### **Assess Student Learning**

**Overview**

Canvas offers many tools that allow you to evaluate student learning and provide feedback to students. Competent use of these tools will enhance the learning environment as you measure learning and evaluate the effectiveness of the instructional setting.

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| **Quizzes** |
| * Build effective self and peer assessments with feedback.
* Create a new Quiz with a variety of question types.
* Import questions from a test bank or publisher.
* Grade a Quiz.
* Re-grade a Quiz.
* View time spent.
* Use quiz data including statistics.
* Adjust Quiz settings for the optimum assessment environment for the educational purpose.
* Understand the impact Quiz settings can have on individualized assessment and accommodating students with disabilities.
* Describe how Quiz settings can increase reliability and validity.
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| **Surveys:** |
| * Build Surveys and differentiate them from Quizzes.
* Explain the value of Surveys within the course.
* Share and build results into learning activities.
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| **Assignments:** |
| * Explain how to create an assignment and include supporting media.
* Edit assignment settings.
* Grade an assignment submission.
 |

#### **Manage, Evaluate, And Improve the Course**

**Overview**

Keeping the course organized and managing the flow of instruction, grading, communication and scheduling are important areas of proficiency. Canvas tools provide data that you can use to assess the effectiveness of specific content pages and examine the overall effectiveness of the course. Once you have analyzed the data, use it to improve your course design and content.

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| **Course Statistics:** |
| * Find and read the data collected in Canvas Analytics.
* Work with Analytics’ Reports.
* View Discussion, Assignment, and Quiz data.
* Use the “Message Students Who” feature.
* Describe the useful features of Canvas Analytics and how they relate to student success.
* Know which pages and tools are tracked, and understand how to best use the data.
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| **Student Tracking:** |
| * Describe how to track student progress in the different areas of the course.
* Describe how tracking student progress relates to student success.
* Describe how tracking student progress can motivate students to participate in the course.
* Analyze individual student progress data as it relates to student success.
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| **Student Surveys:** |
| * Describe the importance of getting student feedback at various points throughout the course.
* Understand how to survey students and apply the feedback to improve the course.
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## **Appendix D. Assuring That Your Online Course is Ready for Prime Time**

Use an Online Course Readiness Checklist to help guide development of your course. Once your course is developed, the checklist may serve as a reminder to complete any pending items.

The major components of the Course Readiness Checklist are in these categories:

* Instructional Design – the organization and architecture of the course
* Navigation – how students access the course content and tools
* Pedagogical Effectiveness – the instructional techniques
* Accessibility and Usability – course meets ADA compliance and universal access standards (See Appendix H).
* Copyright Compliance – adherence to the institutional copyright compliance policy
* Technology - use of technology tools and multimedia elements, hyperlinks
* Schedule – updated time-sensitive items, schedules, calendars, announcements

For each item within these categories, you can check off a simple Yes or No to indicate your course readiness status. A space for your reminders or comments is provided at the end of each section. Comments are particularly useful for explaining any “No course readiness” items. You may use this Checklist as a self-assessment or you may want to have the assistance of the instructional designer or a peer-reviewer to go through the items. Remove or add items to your Online Course Readiness Checklist to fit the needs of your online course development and delivery process. The following items are suggestions for a comprehensive review of your online course readiness.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Status** |  **Instructional Design** |
| **Yes** | **No** |
| **Y** | **N** | 1. Is there a sequence or hierarchy to the organization of the course content? |
| **Y** | **N** | 2. Does the course content address the stated intended student learning outcomes? |
| **Y** | **N** | 3. Is the course content organized into learning modules or other type of unit setup? |
| **Y** | **N** | 4. Is there a template or consistent page setup within the learning modules or units? |
| **Y** | **N** | 5. Does the entry page for each learning module or unit contain an introduction, overview, and objectives and grading criteria? |
| **Y** | **N** | 6. Do the learning modules include pre- and post-assessments that measure the achievement of the learning objectives for the module? |
| **Y** | **N** | 7. Do the learning modules include assigned readings that include chapters or page numbers, files, or websites? |
| **Y** | **N** | 8. Do the learning modules include writing assignments with instructions about how to submit the assignment? |
| **Y** | **N** | 9. Do the learning modules include exercises/activities that are interactive for the entire class or for groups? |
| **Y** | **N** | 10. Do the learning modules include resources to engage students in further study? |
| **Y** | **N** | 11. Does the course site include an entry page with current announcements? |
| **Y** | **N** | 12. Does the course include a current syllabus? |
| **Y** | **N** | 13. Does the syllabus include information about the instructor? |
| **Y** | **N** | 14. Does the syllabus include a detailed course description? |
| **Y** | **N** | 15. Does the syllabus include detailed course objectives and/or expected student learning outcomes? |
| **Y** | **N** | 16. Does the syllabus include course policies and procedures? |
| **Y** | **N** | 17. Does the syllabus include a detailed grading policy? |
| **Y** | **N** | 18. Does the course encourage students to manage their time andavoid procrastination by setting clear timelines and goals? |
| **Y** | **N** | 19. Does the course include virtual office hours? |
|  |  | **Comments about Pedagogical Effectiveness** |

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| --- | --- |
| **Status** |  **Accessibility and Usability** |
| **Yes** | **No** |
| **Y** | **N** | 1. Are text links available for navigation in addition to graphical links? |
| **Y** | **N** | 2. Are all icons, buttons, and graphics tagged with text tags (ALT tags)? |
| **Y** | **N** | 3. Are web pages kept to a minimum of scrolling? |
| **Y** | **N** | 4. Are file sizes kept to a minimum to enable faster access? |
| **Y** | **N** | 5. Is the page load time kept to minimum for students with slower Internet connections? |
| **Y** | **N** | 6. If graphics are turned off by the student, is the content still understandable? |
| **Y** | **N** | 7. Do the pages print well? Numbers, files, or websites? |
| **Y** | **N** | 8. Is there a consistent, accessible style used for formatting text? |
| **Y** | **N** | 9. Do colors have an appropriate contrast ratio, are they web-safe, and harmonious? |
| **Y** | **N** | 10. Do the web pages work well on mobile devices, different browsers and on different screen resolutions? |
| **Y** | **N** | 11. Are the file formats standard or do they require special software or plug-ins? |
| **Y** | **N** | 12.If audio and/or video files are used, are they captioned or are transcripts available? |
| **Y** | **N** | 13. Is the audio and video clear and audible? |
| **Y** | **N** | 14. Do slides have text versions available? |
| **Y** | **N** | 15. Is the course accessible on PC, Mac and mobile platforms? |
|  |  | **Comments about Accessibility and Usability** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Status** | **Copyright Compliance** |
| **YES** | **NO** |   |
| **Y** | **N** | 1. Does the use of educational materials and multimedia adhere to the institution’s [policy on Copyright Compliance](https://www.sdccd.edu/about/copyright.aspx)? |
| **Y** | **N** | 2. Does the use of educational materials and multimedia adhere to [Fair Use Guidelines?](https://www.sdccd.edu/about/copyright.aspx) |
| **Y** | **N** | 3. Have copyright holder permissions been secured in writing? |
|  |  | **Comments about Copyright Compliance** |

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| --- | --- |
| **Status** | **Technology** |
| **YES** | **NO** |   |
| **Y** | **N** | 1. Is the structural integrity of the course sound—the content is intact, and is not “broken” in some way? |
| **Y** | **N** | 2. Are all LTIs, e-Packs, and Course Cartridges ADA compliant and do they work correctly? |
| **Y** | **N** | 3. Has the use of ALL CAPS and illegible fonts been eliminated? |
| **Y** | **N** | 4. Are all line art, charts, graphs, cartoon art, etc. posted as GIFs? |
| **Y** | **N** | 5. Are photographic images greater than 200 x 200 pixels posted in an image format such as jpg or png? |
| **Y** | **N** | 6. If animations are used, do they have a specific educational purpose or meaning that can only be demonstrated through animation? |
| **Y** | **N** | 7. Are animations designed to stop moving or playing after 3 to 6 seconds or does it have controls that allow the student to stop, pause, or replay? |
| **Y** | **N** | 8. If streaming audio or video files are used, are they captioned and hosted on a streaming media server? |

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| **Status** | **Schedule** |
| **YES** | **NO** |
| **Y** | **N** | 1. If using an automated course system, is the opening date of the course for student access set correctly? |
| **Y** | **N** | 2. Is a Welcome announcement posted? Use Guidelines? |
| **Y** | **N** | 3. Are all calendar dates set for the current semester? |
| **Y** | **N** | 4. Are due dates set for the current semester? |
| **Y** | **N** | 5. Are time-sensitive course modules and exams set to open and close? |
| **Y** | **N** | 6. Confirm that all assignments and due dates are clear and consistent. |
| **Y** | **N** | 7. Check all links to ensure that they are valid and working. |
|   | **Comments about Schedule** |
|   | **Additional Feedback** |

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## **Appendix E. Recommended Components of a Learning Module**

The online course content is presented in learning modules with each module taught on a time-scheduled basis, such as one module per week. Depending upon the learning objectives, all the modules may be available throughout the course or the modules may be time-released week by week. If the courseware tools permit release of new material based on the results of the end-of-module assessment, this type of customization creates a learning path that meets the needs of individual learners.

Each module can consist of 7 components:

**1. Pre-Assessment**

Prior to beginning the module, students are assessed to determine their entry-level knowledge of the topic. Assessments may take a variety of forms including: objective questions (scored automatically by the courseware), short answer or essay questions. Results of the module assessment will be compared with the Pre-Assessment to measure students' learning outcomes.

**2. Learning Objectives**

Include a lead-in statement such as, “Upon successful completion of this module, students will be able to...” Module objectives must include the actions, performance criteria, and conditions of what the student will be able to do. List verbs which demonstrate outcomes. Place the verb at the beginning of the objective. Some examples are: define, repeat, list, record, recall, relate, underline, translate, discuss, describe, identify, locate, report, interpret, dramatize, illustrate, schedule, sketch, apply, operate, evaluate, solve, calculate, etc. Stress critical thinking activities. Explain briefly “how” the knowledge will be shown: ex., “define, in writing, the influence of the Bauhaus movement on the design of contemporary buildings.” The objectives must relate in concept and language to both the Course Description and the concepts listed in the Outline of Topics on the syllabus. Be concise and complete: ten is probably too many; one is not enough.

**3. Assigned Reading**

Reading assignments are required. Specify chapters, pages, documents, slides. Provide guided reading suggestions or points to look out for in the reading.

**4. Assigned Writing**

Writing assignments are required. Specifically identify the type of writing, outlining, etc. Explain the process for submitting the writing assignment and the evaluation criteria. Some suggested techniques are:

Posting to the discussion board

Transmitting a Word document (to instructor or shared with class)

**5. Exercise/Activities**

Provide an interactive exercise for the entire class or for groups. Suggested interactive exercises:

Discussion Forum with specific guidelines for quality/quantity of postings

Creation of individual or group PowerPoint presentation via discussion board for student review and comment.

Student submission of web resources on the module topic.

Post a self-assessment quiz using the online assessment tools

**6. For Further Study**

Provide links to web resources to engage students in further study.

**7. Assessment**

The purpose of the assessment is to measure the achievement of the Learning Objectives for this module. Suggested formats for the assessment:

Short essay questions.

Quiz items submitted via the Assessment Manager.

The format of the assessment should match the format of the pre-assessment so that progress can be measured.

Specify the instructor feedback concerning the assessment (how will feedback be provided, and when?) Specify what the remediation process would be for students who miss meeting the learning objectives.

## **Appendix F. Instructure Course Evaluation Checklist**

The Instructure Course Evaluation Checklist is a collaborative creation from members of the Education Services department at Instructure. By combining our expertise in Canvas, sharing our knowledge of Universal Design for Learning principles, and applying our deep understanding of pedagogical best practices, we’ve created a tool that will elevate the quality of Canvas courses.

How To Use The legend within each header references what type of criterion is demonstrated. A ★ rating indicates an Essential and standard design component to online learning; a ★★ rating is considered Best Practice and adds value to a course; and ★★★ is Exemplary and elevates learning.

We know each institution has unique requirements for their courses and we hope this document will serve as a great resource or starting point. We’d love to hear how you’re using this checklist. Please leave comments in the [Canvas Community - Course Evaluation Checklist](https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Instructional-Designer/Course-Evaluation-Checklist-v2-0/ba-p/280349) blog post.

Please Note: Visit the [Mobile App Design Course Evaluation Checklist](https://community.canvaslms.com/groups/designers/blog/2018/06/29/mobile-app-design-course-evaluation-checklist) blog post to access an additional resource!

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| **Course Information** | ★ Essential | ★★ Best Practice | ★★★ Exemplary |
| Yes ✔ | Criteria |
| ❑ ★ | Home Page provides visual representation of course; a brief course description or introduction; clear instructions for students (e.g., where to begin) and navigation to current content in less than three clicks| [Canvas Guide - Home Page](https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Instructor-Guide/How-do-I-set-a-Front-Page-in-a-course/ta-p/797)· UDL 2.5 Illustrate through multiple media |
| ❑ ★★ | Home Page utilizes a course banner with imagery that is relevant to subject/course materials| [Canvas Guide- Embed Images with the New Rich Content Editor](https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Instructor-Guide/How-do-I-upload-and-embed-an-image-in-the-Rich-Content-Editor-as/ta-p/784)· UDL 2.5 Illustrate through multiple media |
|  ❑ ★ | Course card provides visual representation of subject by adding an image in Course Settings | [Canvas Guide - Add Image to Course Card](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-12780-4152626354)· UDL 2.5 Illustrate through multiple media |
| ❑ ★ | Items not used are hidden from Course Navigation | [Canvas Guide - Navigation Links](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-12933-415257079)· Mobile Design Consideration· UDL 7.3 Minimize threats and distractions |
| ❑ ★ | Instructor has provided learning objectives; policies for grading, late work, and make-up work; communication instructions, guidelines and contact information.· UDL 8.1 Heighten salience of goals and objectives |
| ❑ ★ | Student is made aware of participation expectations; technology requirements; and supplemental textbooks, reading lists, and course materials |

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| **Course Content**  | ★ Essential | ★★ Best Practice | ★★★ Exemplary |
| Yes ✔ | Criteria |
| ❑ ★ | Copyright law is followed. Course breaks no copyright considerations | [Canvas Guide - Copyright Resources](https://community.canvaslms.com/thread/21298-copyright-resources) |
| ❑ ★ | All links, files, videos and external URLs are active and working | [Canvas Guide - Link Validation](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-12770) |
|  ❑ ★ | Content is "chunked” into manageable pieces by leveraging modules (e.g. organized by units, chapters, topic, or weeks) | [Canvas Guide - Modules](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10735-67952724476)· Mobile Design Consideration· UDL 3.3 Guide information processing, visualization, and manipulation |
|  ❑ ★★ | Text Headers and indention are included within modules to help guide student navigation | [Canvas Guide - Add Text Header](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-13022-415240798)· Mobile Design Consideration· UDL 2.2 Clarify syntax and structure |
| ❑ ★★ | Modules and items within modules have a thoughtful naming convention (e.g. name the module “Chapter 1: Pandas in the News,” not just “Chapter 1”)· UDL 2.2 Clarify syntax and structure |
| ❑ ★★★ | Modules begin with an Introduction/Overview page and end with a Conclusion/Summary page to “bookend” each module· UDL 3.1 Activate or supply background knowledge |
| ❑ ★★★ | External tools (e.g., Quizlet, Khan Academy, Padlet, Nearpod, CK-12) are embedded within modules or in a page, assignment, discussion, or quiz using the Rich Content Editor· UDL 5.2 Use multiple tools for construction and composition |
|  ❑ ★ | Lessons include at least one of three forms:‣ Student-Student Interaction (e.g. discussions and/or collaborative projects)‣ Student-Teacher Interaction (e.g. quality feedback)‣ Student-Content Interaction (e.g. engaging content and resources with which students must interact and not just read or watch)· UDL 8.3 Foster collaboration and community |
| ❑ ★★ | There is a “Welcome” or “Let’s Get Acquainted” discussion· UDL 8.3 Foster collaboration and community |
| ❑ ★★★ | Auto-open Inline Preview used thoughtfully | [Canvas Guide - Auto-open for Inline Preview](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-12868-415268090) |
| ❑ ★★★ | Personalized learning is evident (e.g., utilized module completion requirements and/or prerequisites | [Canvas Guide - Adding Prerequisites](https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Instructor-Guide/How-do-I-add-prerequisites-to-a-module/ta-p/1123)· UDL 6.4 Enhance capacity for monitoring progress |
| ❑ ★★★ | Due Date is evident (e.g. utilized different due dates) | [Canvas Guide- Due Dates](https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Instructor-Guide/What-is-the-difference-between-assignment-due-dates-and/ta-p/897) |
| ❑ ★★★ | MasteryPaths are included | [Canvas Guide - MasteryPaths](https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Instructor-Guide/How-do-I-use-MasteryPaths-in-course-modules/ta-p/906)· UDL 7.2 Optimize relevance, value, and authenticity |

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| **Assessment of Student Learning**  | ★ Essential | ★★ Best Practice | ★★★ Exemplary |
| Yes ✔ | Criteria |
| ❑ ★ | Multiple methods of assessments are used (e.g. discussion, assignments (individual or group) and quizzes)| [Canvas Guide- Discussion](https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Instructor-Guide/How-do-I-create-a-discussion-as-an-instructor/ta-p/1029)| [Canvas Guide- Assignments](https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Instructor-Guide/How-do-I-create-an-assignment/ta-p/740)| [Canvas Guide- Quizzes](https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Instructor-Guide/How-do-I-create-a-quiz-with-individual-questions/ta-p/1248)| · UDL 4.1 Vary the methods for response and navigation |
| ❑ ★ | Detailed instructions and guidelines for completing assignments and discussions are provided· UDL 4.2 Optimize access to tools and assistive technologies|[Canvas Guide-Accessibility](https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Accessibility/Accessibility-within-Canvas/ba-p/261501)| |
| ❑ ★★ | Sample assignments are provided to illustrate instructor expectations· UDL 5.3 Build fluencies with graduated levels of support for practice and performance |
| ❑ ★ | SpeedGrader used to score and provide feedback | [Canvas Guide - SpeedGrader](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10712-67952724422)· UDL 8.4 Increase mastery-oriented feedback |
| ❑ ★ | Rubrics used to evaluate assignments and/or discussions | [Canvas Guide - Rubrics](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-12722-415286227) |
| ❑ ★★ | Outcomes tied to assessments | [Canvas Guide - Outcomes](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-13125-415267951)· UDL 8.1 Heighten salience of goals and objectives |
| ❑ ★★★ | Learning Mastery Gradebook enabled for visual representation of Outcome mastery | [Canvas Guide - Learning Mastery Gradebook](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-12901-4152179359) |
| **Course Accessibility**  | ★ Essential | ★★ Best Practice | ★★★ Exemplary |
| Yes ✔ | Criteria |
| ❑ ★ | Accommodation Statement is present and easily located (e.g., on Home Page or Course Overview)· UDL 4.2 Optimize access to tools and assistive technologies |
|  ❑ ★ | Color does not overpower the course information; sufficient contrast between text and background makes information easy to read; and color is not used in isolation to convey meaning (e.g., color and bold are used to indicate importance) | [Canvas Guide - Accessibility Checker](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-13345-4152808104)· UDL 7.3 Minimize threats and distractions |
| ❑ ★ | Images are used to support course content (e.g., banners, headings and icons) and accompanied by text descriptions (Alt text) or captions for more complex descriptions | [Canvas Guide - General Accessibility Design Guidelines](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-2060-general-accessibility-design-guidelines)· UDL 1.3 Offer alternatives for visual information |
| ❑ ★ | Styles (e.g. Paragraph, Heading 2, etc.) are used to format text | [Canvas Guide - General Accessibility Design Guidelines](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-2060)· UDL 4.2 Optimize access to tools and assistive technologies |
|  ❑ ★ | Hyperlink text incorporates the hyperlink destination/purpose (avoid raw URLs, e.g., [https://www.canvaslms.com](https://www.canvaslms.com/)) and includes words and phrases to provide context for screen-readers (e.g., use “Canvas Guide - Hyperlink” rather than “Canvas Guide”) | [WebAim - Introduction to Links and Hypertext](https://webaim.org/techniques/hypertext/#screen_readers)· UDL 4.2 Optimize access to tools and assistive technologies |
| ❑ ★ | Audio materials (mp3, wav, etc.) are accompanied by a transcript and videos / screencasts are closed-captioned| [Canvas Guide - Create Caption Files](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-13051-4152719749)· UDL 1.2 Offer alternatives for auditory information |
| ❑ ★★ | Tables are only used for tabular data· Mobile Design Consideration |

The Content Services department is always ready to help your organization create a cycle of success with Canvas through Training, Instructional Design, and Adoption Consulting! Our Instructional Design team offers full Course Evaluations. Course evaluation services provide insight into best practices. Recommendations will focus on aligning course objectives, accessibility, and overall creation of an enhanced user experience. If you would like to learn more about our services, please contact your CSM or Shauna Vorkink

at svorkink@instructure.com.

## **Appendix G. Mobile Evaluation Checklist:**

**Please Note:** This resource is designed to act as an addendum to the [Canvas Community - Course Evaluation Checklist.](https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Instructional-Designer/Course-Evaluation-Checklist-v2-0/ba-p/280349)

**How To Use** The legend in each header references what type of criterion is demonstrated.

A ★ rating indicates an **Essential** and standard design component to online learning; a ★★ rating is considered **Best Practice** and adds value to a course; and★★★ is **Exemplary** and elevates learning.

We know each institution has unique requirements for their courses and we hope this document will serve as a great resource or starting point. *We’d love to hear how you’re using this checklist. Please leave comments in the* [*Canvas Community - Mobile App Design Course Evaluation Checklist*](https://community.canvaslms.com/groups/designers/blog/2018/06/29/mobile-app-design-course-evaluation-checklist) *blog post.*

It’s always best practice to review your course(s) in the app. Search “Instructure” to find free teacher and student apps available for iOS and Android.

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| **Mobile Design**  | ★ Essential | ★★ Best Practice | ★★★ Exemplary |
| Yes ✔ | Criteria | Example |
| ❑ ★ | Text headers are included within modules to help guide student navigation | [Canvas Guide - Add Text Header](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-13022-415240798)· UDL 2.2 Clarify syntax and structure | [Text Headers in Module](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YdGrkfHdc3NzC2agurFHKDbSElhdov7i/view?usp=sharing) |
| ❑ ★ | Chunk content into smaller parts and use the module tool to organize Canvas Pages into a table of contents· UDL 2.2 Clarify syntax and structure | [Chunking Content](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Ig9RS9WRL31eeeUkkjLtIVgt62OokbWXayu4tNk8cvs/edit?usp=sharing) |
| ❑ ★ | When possible, Canvas Pages are used to present content, instead of linking to external URLs or files in the flow of the module· UDL 7.3 Minimize threats and distractions | [Text Readability - Comparisons](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ltLYTk2er6JMNK0zDLhq-DDEYIj41asi/view?usp=sharing) |
| ❑ ★★ | Instructions and prompts are platform neutral to minimize student confusion· UDL 7.1 7.1 Optimize individual choice and autonomy | [Multiple Device Guidelines](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BK4vay8gPnLWUZDYrza1kT0_kvJKeTlY/view?usp=sharing) |
| ❑ ★★ | Students are alerted and given alternatives when an unsupported file type is used· UDL 7.3: Minimize threats and distractions | [Access Alternative](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jQA7vGFYkQZPJbBAQiKRt5JyNc4HPWcx/view?usp=sharing) |
| ❑ ★★★ | Use Requirements within Modules to give users a visual bookmark of their progress | [Canvas Guide - Add Requirements](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-13134-415261967)· UDL 2.2 Clarify syntax and structure | [Module Requirements](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1l-bFipzVKFj1KKtAV1L3l3OP2OCidc-5/view?usp=sharing) |

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| **Course Enhancements**  | ★ Essential | ★★ Best Practice | ★★★ Exemplary |
| Yes ✔ | Criteria | Resource |
| ❑ ★★ | Assessment design takes into account the additional tools students have when working on a mobile device - camera, video, audio, file upload, GPS | Mobile Series Video: [Tips to Designing Mobile-Friendly Assignments](https://community.canvaslms.com/videos/2212) |
| ❑ ★★★ | Assessment design takes into account the ability for students to use the Mobile Annotations tool on an assignment that uses an uploaded PDF | [Canvas Guide - Submit a PDF assignment with annotations in the Canvas app - iOS](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-9836-18561633679) and [Canvas Guide - Submit a PDF assignment with annotations in the Canvas app - Android](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-9784-18555639643) | Canvas Live Video: [Canvas Mobile Annotations Quick Demo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PO4B7xtelo4) |

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### **Mobile Design Resources**

* [Canvas Live Presentation: Canvas Mobile Design*,*](https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/CanvasLive/Mobile-Series-Tips-to-Designing-Mobile-Friendly-Assignments/ba-p/381960)Ryan Seilhamer, UCF
* [Canvas Blog: Are Courses Really Mobile First?](https://blog.canvaslms.com/en/are-courses-really-mobile-first) Ryan Seilhamer, UCF
* [Design a Mobile Ready Course with Universal Design,](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/124wW2QCpharLR6wNBViJpvn2NW_yVxW-xzyHi-yIOSs/edit#slide%3Did.p7) Kate Miller, CU Online
* [Canvas Teacher Mobile Features](https://s3.amazonaws.com/tr-learncanvas/docs/Mobile_CanvasTeacher.pdf) and [Mobile Guides - Canvas Teacher](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-11886)
* [Canvas Student Mobile Features](https://s3.amazonaws.com/tr-learncanvas/docs/Mobile_CanvasStudent.pdf) and [Mobile Guides - Canvas Student](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-4048)

## **Appendix H. Accessibility of Distance Learning Courses for Students with Disabilities**

Ensuring accessibility allows students with different capabilities to experience education in the California Community College system. In addition, there are policy and legal mandates regarding access. The following document covers the legal requirements, CCC Chancellor’s Guidelines, and examples of access issues with possible solution. [Accessibility of Distance Learning Courses for Students with Disabilities.](http://www.sdccdonline.net/faculty/resources/Accessible_Distance_Learning_Courses.pdf)