

## Role of the Faculty Development Center in supporting Regular and Substantive Interaction in Remote Instruction

Working together with campus governance processes and in collaboration with its faculty and support staff, campuses must work to ensure that remote instruction meets regular interaction and substantive interaction.

What meets the expectations of “regular interaction?”

The federal definition of distance Education provided in the final ***Distance Learning and Innovation Regulations*** requires “regular and substantive interaction” between the students and the instructor, either synchronously or asynchronously. Regular interaction means that the institution provides the opportunity for substantive interactions with the student on a predictable and regular basis commensurate with the length of time and the amount of content in the course or competency, monitors the student’s academic engagement and success, and ensures that the instructor(s) are 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.

The institution will make all reasonable efforts to accommodate the needs of international students completing coursework from other time zones, e.g. – opportunities for asynchronous instruction, interactions scheduled in a way that takes into account the time zones of the students enrolled in the section, and other such flexibilities.

What meets the expectation of “substantive interaction” between students and the instructor(s)?

Substantive interaction is defined in the USDE’s August 24, 2020, final ***Distance Learning and Innovation Regulations*** as “engaging students in teaching, learning, and assessment, consistent with the content under discussion, and also includes at least two of the following —

- (i) Providing direct instruction;
- (ii) Assessing or providing feedback on a student’s coursework;
- (iii) Providing information or responding to questions about the content of a course or competency;
- (iv) Facilitating a group discussion regarding the content of a course or competency; or
- (v) Other instructional activities approved by the institution’s or program’s accrediting agency.

Source: msche.org