Building Community Online

Dr. Sonia Ford Petch
Midland College
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Please enter the following information in the chat box:
• Where you teach (institution)
• What you teach (subject)
• How you heard about this forum
Objectives

● Address challenges to teaching and learning in the online environment
● Explore the Community of Inquiry model and factors of online student connectedness
● Explore strategies to facilitate social, cognitive, and teacher presence
● Share ideas among participants
Keep in Mind...

Learning online can increase students’ feelings of isolation

- Be supportive and flexible
- Reach students where they are asynchronously or synchronously when appropriate and available
- Provide support
- Keep it simple
Community of Inquiry Model
(Garrison, Anderson, Archer, 2000)
Factors of Online Student Connectedness (Bolliger & Inan, 2012)

- Comfort
- Community and Social Presence
- Instructor Facilitation
- Interaction and Collaboration
Creating a Comfortable Online Environment

● Make navigation easy
  ○ Group material into “chunks”
  ○ If possible, hide extra tabs in the course learning management system (LMS)
  ○ Demonstrate where to locate course materials

● Create an inviting welcome page
  ○ Consider adding your picture to the welcome page or recording an introduction video

● Provide multiple avenues to contact the instructor
  ○ Utilize messaging apps and notification tools in the LMS
Creating a Comfortable Online Environment

● Begin the course with introduction assignments to help students introduce themselves to you and become familiar with the course
  ○ Student Profile
  ○ Scavenger Hunt

● Provide opportunities for students to introduce themselves to each other
  ○ Introduction discussion
  ○ Synchronous video conference or chat
Strategies to Create a Comfortable Online Environment

Share in the chat box:

How do you create a comfortable online learning environment?
Creating Teaching and Cognitive Presence

● Create a dialog between the instructor and student
  ○ Module Introduction Videos
  ○ Provide opportunities for instructor feedback and share with students when to expect that feedback
  ○ Checking In Reports

● Present material in “chunks”
  ○ Record short videos and then be available at least once a week to answer questions during online office hours

● Provide multiple avenues to contact the instructor
  ○ Respond in a timely manner (i.e. within 24-48 hours)
Strategies to Create Teaching and Cognitive Presence

Share in the chat box:

• How do you establish teaching presence?

• How do you facilitate cognitive presence?
Creating Social Presence

- Provide opportunities for discussion
  - Create a “Virtual Cafe” space
  - Create an “Ask Questions” space
  - Use discussion forums or other collaborative tools to share time management and other study skill strategies

- Assign “support groups” to meet once a week
  - Encourage video
Strategies to Create Community & Social Presence

Share in the chat box:

How do you create community and social presence?
Strategies to Address Time Management - for the Instructor

- Prepare your course before the semester begins
- Assign manageable due dates
- Break assignments into smaller chunks
- Utilize filters to email groups of students
- Set aside time to focus on the course
Strategies to Address Time Management

Share in the chat box:

What time management strategies have you used?
Collaboration Tools

- **Annotations/Screen Capture Applications**
  - Screencast-O-Matic
  - Record It!
  - Komoto

- **Document Camera**
  - iPevo

- **Video Conferencing**
  - LMS, Zoom, Microsoft Teams

- **Scanner Applications**
  - Genius Scan
  - Cam Scanner

- **Real-time Collaboration**
  - Google Docs
  - Voice Thread

- **Webcam**

- **Cell phone**
Discussion Questions:

● Anything not addressed that you want to add?

● Any helpful resources or advice you would like to share?

● Any additional questions?
Resources and References


Blogs and Resources

• Dana Center Blogs:
  • https://www.utdanacenter.org/blog/dana-center-launches-new-transitioning-mathematics-courses-virtual-teaching-webinars
  • https://www.utdanacenter.org/blog/making-switch-virtual-learning
  • https://www.utdanacenter.org/blog/shifting-virtual-teaching-higher-ed-mathematics-part-1

• The Dana Center is compiling resources here: https://tinyurl.com/Teaching-Online-Resources
To Learn More...

Dr. Sonia Ford Petch
sford@midland.edu

UTDanaCenter.org

Facebook.com/utdanacenter
Twitter.com/utdanacenter