Quality Check for Online Courses

QUALIFIES AS ONLINE DISTANCE EDUCATION
(This is based on a Department of Education federal regulation, 34 CFR 600.2(a).

- **Instructor Interaction**: Course must include regular and substantive interaction primarily initiated by the Instructor.
- **Instructor Driven**: Course is NOT largely self-paced.
- **Authentication**: Course requires proof of student identity through a secure log-in (ex: Network ID used in SIU Online), proctored exams, or other technologies.
- **Academic Record**: Course uses a system that documents academic activity to demonstrate regular and substantive interaction (ex: SIU Online).

**ENGAGEMENT**

- **Content for Reading & Collecting**: Instructor provides methods to acquire and collect information.
- **Activities for Reflection**: Instructor provides multiple methods to reflect on content & concepts.
- **Content & Activities for Visual Learning**: Instructor provides methods to display content & concepts.
- **Activities for Hands-on Application**: Instructor provides methods to engage with content & concepts.
- **Balanced Content & Participation**: Course provides opportunities for student ownership in the learning process.

**COMMUNICATION**

- **Pre-Course Communication**: Course clearly communicates to students in advance where and when to log-on.
- **Syllabus**: Instructor provides a thorough syllabus including course objectives, schedule, and expectations.
- **Learning Objectives**: Instructor clearly communicates the learning objectives in the syllabus.
- **Instructor to Class Interaction**: Instructor posts news/announcements on a regular basis.
- **Instructor to Student Interaction**: Instructor has provided opportunities and guidelines for students to contact instructor and has set reasonable expectations for response turn-around.
- **Student to Student Interaction**: Instructor has built in opportunities for students to interact with each other.
- **Guided Learning**: Instructor provides ongoing, regular support to students.

**ASSESSMENT**

- **Check Student Learning**: Instructor has incorporated multiple methods to check student learning.
- **Feedback**: Instructor has built in methods to provide regular feedback to students.

**COURSE DESIGN**

- **Consistency**: Course reflects consistency of design and content location.
- **Accessibility**: Course is accessible when using screen readers and other assistive technologies.

**COURSE IMPROVEMENT**

- **Student Satisfaction**: Instructor provides opportunities, during the course and at the end, for students to provide feedback about the course and their learning experience (ex: Instructor and Course Evaluation).
- **Course Review**: Course content is regularly reviewed, especially after revisions and updates, to make sure that the learning objectives still drive the content and instruction.


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