College of Alameda
Distance Education Newsletter

Distance Education Accreditation

In the October California Community College Distance Education meeting, the ACCJC provided insight regarding the accreditation process. The ACCJC will review three areas:

1. regular and substantive contact between instructor and students;
2. comparable student support services between online and face-to-face students;
3. student authentication

Notably absent from the review is student-to-student which is a California specific rule and will not be reviewed. During this process 10% or 15% of current and classes completed from the immediately preceding semester will be selected at random for review. Only courses that are taught 100% online courses are subject to review. Your Distance Education Coordinator is available to provide online teaching resources as you self assess your own courses in anticipation of this review.

Professional Development Spotlight: CanInnovate Recap; CCC Digital Learning Day; @One Webinars

At the end of October @One hosted Can•Innovate, a free, online conference aimed at providing professional development to the online teaching community. You can access archived video recordings of all of the sessions by self-enrolling in the Can•Innovate Canvas course shell.

It may be a long way off but CCC Digital Learning Day is another free and fully online conference hosted by the folks at @One on February 22, 2019. The conference will provide professional development focusing on the use of digital tools in teaching and learning. Calls for proposals will open in the coming weeks. Visit the CCC Digital Learning Day Conference for more information.

Finally, @One continues to provide webinars, self-paced courses, and online training courses. For those of you looking to improve your courses, these courses have multiple start dates and are available between the Fall and Spring semester.

"Regular and Substantive Interaction" and "Regular Effective Contact"

As noted in last month's update, changes have been proposed to "regular effective contact" related to distance education (*See* § 55204. Instructor Contact). Notably, student-to-student interaction is now specifically included. At the federal level, the "regular and substantive interaction" standard utilized in assessing instructor and student contact in the online setting. For some history on the "regular and substantive interaction" standard take a look at this article from WCET that walks through the term's origin.

Finally, for those of you who are really interested, on October 15th, the Department of Education began rulemaking and tasked the Distance Learning and Educational Innovation Subcommittee to address "[t]he definition of "regular and substantive interaction," as that term is used in the definitions of "correspondence course" and "distance education."" Here's a link to the rulemaking announcement on the Federal Register.