

## Interacting with Online Students

As you start teaching online, keep in mind that interacting with your students is extremely important. According to the literature of online teaching, when faculty are present in the online course, students are more satisfied, feel more connected, and learn more.

Here are some ways you can be present in your online courses:

1. Clearly set the new course expectations for your students. Examples include:
  - a. Tell them about new deadlines.
  - b. Inform them of how you will grade their participation in the online environment.
  - c. Talk to them about modifications to assessments.
2. Participate in your class discussion. Read all comments, identify patterns, and post your comment with your findings. In your comment, you should:
  - a. Correct any wrong information posted by students.
  - b. Summarize conclusions.
  - c. Expand the conversation with a thought or question.
  - d. Mention students by name and ask them questions like you would in a face-to-face course.
3. Communicate with students weekly to:
  - a. Ask them for feedback.
  - b. Remind them of important deadlines.
4. Give your students constructive feedback on every assignment. You can do it via:
  - a. Email
  - b. Video conferencing tools (Microsoft Teams and WebEx)
  - c. [D2L](#)
5. Hold virtual office hours when you are available to talk to students one-on-one. You should use a video conferencing tool to talk to your students when possible. The AU-approved tools for this purpose are:
  - a. [Microsoft Teams](#)
  - b. [WebEx](#)