

## Principles of Online Learning

Fundamental teaching and learning principles based on Chickering and Gamson's best practices for distance education:

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| <p><b>Principle 1</b></p> <p><b>Establish and maintain Regular Effective Contact.</b></p>                           | <p><b>Regular effective contact</b> is a California requirement for distance learning that states that instructors must keep in contact with students on a regular and timely basis both to ensure the quality of instruction and to verify performance and participation status.</p>  |
| <p><b>Principle 2</b></p> <p><b>Create opportunities for student-centered learning.</b></p>                         | <p>In distance education, instead of being the sole source of content knowledge, the role of the instructor is as a <b>facilitator</b>. Students should be encouraged to interact not only with the content and instructor but also with each other in order to understand, research and come to their own conclusions about the course material.</p>                |
| <p><b>Principle 3</b></p> <p><b>Create opportunities that have practical real world applications.</b></p>           | <p>The activities in distance education courses should be <b>authentic</b>, that is, based on tasks that students would have to perform in various setting outside the classroom. Students should also have chances to enhance their knowledge about the world through critical thinking and reasoning skills.</p>   |
| <p><b>Principle 4</b></p> <p><b>Provide support for each student's learning process and autonomy.</b></p>           | <p>Distance education <b>instructors should engage all types of learners</b> by providing content and assessments that respect and accommodate the different needs, learning styles and strategies of each student. In addition, instructors should provide support for students in time management and academic skill development.</p>                              |
| <p><b>Principle 5</b></p> <p><b>Ensure all course content is readily and easily accessible to all students.</b></p> | <p>Instructors should make certain that their courses meet all the necessary <b>accessibility requirements</b> (508 compliance). They should also create course content and assessments that are user-friendly in terms of technology and provide alternate means of access to the course material should there be problems with the Learning Management System.</p> |

**From:**

Chickering, Arthur W. and Zelda F. Gamson (Eds.). *Applying the Seven Principles for Good Practice in Undergraduate Education: New Directions in Teaching and Learning*, Number 47 (J-B TL Single Issue Teaching and Learning). Paperback. 1991.