



In this Issue: Connecting with Students Online

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How-to best communicate with your class at a distance



Connecting with your students remotely or in a fully online course can be very different than your face to face class. Let us provide you with some tips and tricks to get your class talking and on it's way to being a great Virtual Learning Community.

[Click here for some ideas around remote and online communications.](#)

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Weekly WebEx Drop-In: Strategies for Communicating Online - Q&A

Do you have questions about how best to communicate with students remotely through an online learning environment? Looking for better ways to use the discussion forums and web conferencing tools available at USask? Have a specific communication questions that hasn't been answered? Connect with one of DEU's **Instructional Design Team** members who've been there before in an informal, drop-in session Tuesday at 2pm. We'll be on hand to answer questions about how to create an active virtual learning community and maintain a live presence in an online course. Ask the experts. With hundreds of online course developments under our belts, we've seen it all before.

Tues. May 5th at 2pm-3pm

Strategies for Communicating Online - Q&A

[WebEx Drop-In Session](#)

Did you know...?

There are online activity guides developed by DEU and GMCTE to help you develop and nurture your virtual learning community. Below we've provided some links to resources that will help you get the most out of some of the communications tools available at USask.

Synchronous Activities

Synchronous activities enable you as an instructor to connect live at the same time and dialogue with your learners virtually in real time, regardless of where you – and they – are located geographically. Learn the main technologies and approaches to synchronous learning that can be integrated into distributed and online courses.

Discussion Forums

Discussion forums are foundational in online courses and, when implemented effectively, can provide a powerful learning experience for learners. The guide offers an overview of best practices and provides a variety of options for using online discussion in your course.

Virtual Learning Community

Visit a page with ideas and tips for [creating a healthy virtual learning community](#). Students connecting to each other and the big ideas of a course is always important, but it is more important when people are physically isolated. Working hard to establish community in your class is an important part of prepared remote instruction.

Dig Deeper: Humanizing Online Teaching and Learning

Humanizing Online Teaching and Learning is a companion guide to the HumanMOOC that might be useful during this time of remote teaching and learning. This book offers critical thinking about how to humanize your online course experiences and maintain a social presence as the course instructor. Helpful information on communicating effectively, using video and audio, social learning in online environments and much more can all help you make your course a more human experience and build your online learning community.

[Read Humanizing Online Teaching and Learning](#)

DEU support and contact information

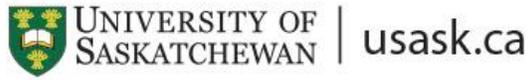
The **Instructional Design Team** at the Distance Education Unit can help you design online activities, assessments and other online appropriate elements to your remote teaching or fully online offerings. Visit <https://sites.usask.ca/edtech/> for more helpful tips and tutorials as well as information on our support services and contact information.

Our **Instructional Design Team** is always happy to chat with you about learning technologies and strategies for using them effectively in your online or blended classroom. Our staff can help you with questions about,

- Full Online Course Development Projects
- Hybrid, multi-access and blended learning strategies
- Open Textbook and OER developments
- ePortfolios
- Engaging Online Assessments and Learning Activities
- Copyright Clearances, Acquisitions and OER Licensing
- Ensuring Accessibility standards are being addressed
- Ed Tech Support before and during delivery
- Course Quality Reviews and Recommendations
- Media resource development
- Resource curation and dissemination
- Non-Credit Learning Design

And much more. Just drop us a line to start a conversation deu.support@usask.ca

If you wish to be added to the DEUD mailing list, please send your NSID to deu.support@usask.ca



We acknowledge that we live and work on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. We pay our respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.