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Regular and Substantive Interaction (RSI) in Distance Education Courses

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Scope

This policy affects all University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) academic units and instructors developing, offering, and engaging in delivery of distance education programs, courses, and activities for academic credit, including courses and sections labeled Online, Hybrid, Remote, or other comparable designations.

Policy Statement

In 2020, the federal government clarified expectations requiring all distance education programs to assure “regular and substantive interaction between students and faculty.” The University of Nebraska at Omaha is committed to complying with all requirements regarding the operation of distance education within US states and territories. The criteria developed by the federal government to communicate its expectations regarding *regular and substantive interaction* (RSI) are below, respectively, followed by an explanation of UNO’s strategy for meeting those expectations.

Institutions must ensure *Regular Interaction* between a student and an instructor or instructors by:

- providing the opportunity for substantive interaction with the student on a predictable and scheduled basis commensurate with the length of time and the amount of content in the course or competency; *and*

informational resources and training on regular and substantive interaction, including an [RSI Faculty Resource Guide](#) that includes recommendations and checklists for achieving RSI compliance.

Additional Contacts

Subject	Contact	Phone & Email	Additional Contact Information
Interpretation and application of policy	Academic Affairs	402.554.2262 academic.affairs@unomaha.edu	
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History

Incorporation of “regular and substantive interaction between students and faculty” has always been an HLC Assumed Practice. The policy is being articulated at this time for several reasons, including the more recent expansion of asynchronous delivery of instruction in response to the pandemic and a heightened focus by the federal government on this element of instruction. Policy approved by the Senior Executive Leadership Team on June 6, 2024.

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