Tips for Connecting Virtually

Effectively Teaching through Online Course Instruction

1

Start by **reviewing strategies and resources** included on this handout to help you work efficiently and collaboratively through remote learning. Which ones are applicable to the courses you are currently teaching?

2

When planning class sessions, **create pit stops for discussion, questions, and formative assessments**. The average adult attention span is 10-15 minutes, and this can be even more challenging remotely. Using a tool like Padlet or Slido (pg. 2) helps make this successful.

How to Engage Students Effectively

1) In small classes or meetings, have everyone turn their **video on to create in-person presence**

2) Create virtual office hours through Webex or Zoom meeting rooms to create supportive presence

3) Remember that **some students may need more support** virtually than during in-classroom teaching

3

Consider staying on the call for 10-15 minutes after class ends to let students continue to ask questions and chat with you. This allows students to get the support they need despite not being in person for class. **Your presence and attention mean a lot -- even virtually!**

4

Familiarize yourself with the technology you're using in class, and utilize the resources available to you. **Test technology in advance of each class session** to ensure your equipment and software are working effectively. **Provide resources to students as well** so they have the tools they need to learn remotely.

Links to Virtual Teaching Resources
in the School of Medicine
Continuity of Learning During Emergencies
Communicating with Students Virtually
Delivering a Virtual Lecture
Resources for Virtual Instruction

5

Don't forget that you aren't alone! **Reach out to colleagues and offer to collaborate/share ideas.** Remember that online instruction and technology are ever-changing, and collaboration is key when navigating new spaces. **We are better together.**

Resources to Help You Work Collaboratively & Effectively

Links to Internal Resources

UNC Keep Teaching - guidelines & resources for distance education

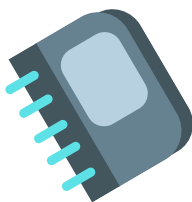**Sakai @ UNC Tutorials** - user guide on how to navigate Sakai

Academy of Educators Teaching Toolbox - best teaching practices on feedback, setting expectations, & more

Links to External Resources

Teaching Online Resources - robust list of synchronous & asynchronous best practices

***Free* Education Company Resources** - list of free education resources such as educational technology, online portfolios, interactive texts, and more

Instructional Education Tech Webinar - on how to support and engage students through distance education during unexpected times
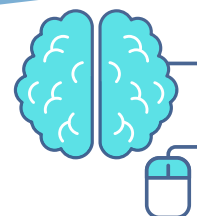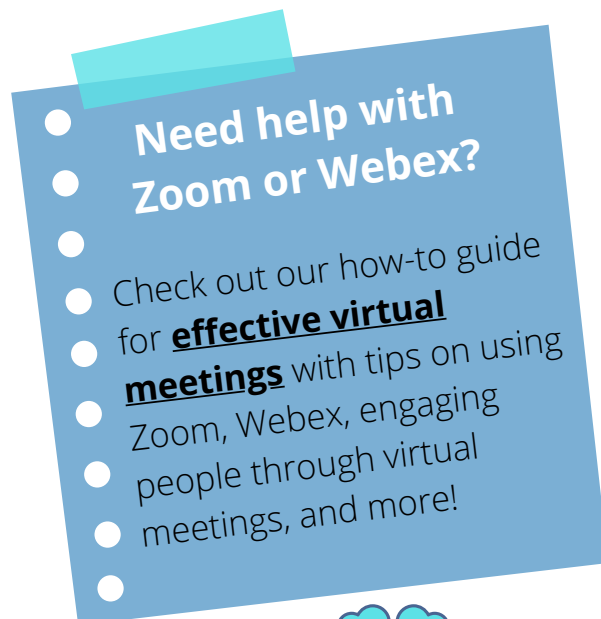
Not sure how to make distance education interactive?

We recommend **using tools such as Slido and Padlet!**

Slido allows faculty to assess understanding through multiple choice question polls, text responses that populate into word clouds, question banks where users can up or down "vote" questions, and more.

Padlet allows users to engage by posting on a collaborative board during class. Say something like "share one thing that surprised you" or "one thing that still puzzles you" to assess understand. Ask students to "post an image that best represents this concept" as a creative way to get their thoughts.

Need help with Zoom or Webex?

Check out our how-to guide for **effective virtual meetings** with tips on using Zoom, Webex, engaging people through virtual meetings, and more!

Tech issues?

Call 919-962-HELP

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Click to Request an IT Consultation

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