



Distance Education

AUG 17, 2023

Regular & Substantive Interactions



Objectives

01 Define RSI.

02 Explain why RSI is important and relevant.

03 Discuss tools that can be used to meet RSI.

04 Locate resources and forms for RSI compliance.

How confident are you in knowing how to meet the requirements of RSI?

I do not know
what RSI stands
for.

I could teach
someone about
RSI.



Why RSI?

- USDoE regulation 34 C.F.R. § 600.2
- Differentiates between correspondence education and distance education
- Central determinate for students' ability to use Title IV funds for courses
- Research has shown that teacher-student interaction positively influences online learning outcomes (Sun et al., 2022).



DEFINITIONS

An institution ensures **regular** interaction between a student and an instructor by:

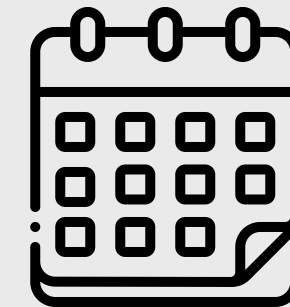
- Providing the opportunity for substantive interactions with the student on a **predictable and scheduled** basis commensurate with the length of time and the amount of content in the course or competency.
- **Monitoring** the student's academic engagement and success and ensuring that an instructor is responsible for promptly and proactively engaging in substantive interaction with the student when needed, on the basis of such monitoring, or upon request by the student.

Substantive interaction is engaging students in teaching, learning, and assessment, consistent with the content under discussion and also includes **at least two** of the following:

- Providing direct instruction
- Assessing and/or providing feedback on a student's coursework
- Providing information and/or responding to student questions about the course content
- Facilitating a group discussion regarding course content or competency
- Other instructional activities approved by the institution's or program's accrediting agency

Key Requirements

- Instructor initiated
- Scheduled and predictable
- Academic and relevant; includes at least **two** of the following:
 - Direct instruction
 - synchronous interactions only (Kerensky, 2022)
 - Academic feedback
 - Responding to questions
 - Facilitating discussions
- Monitoring student success





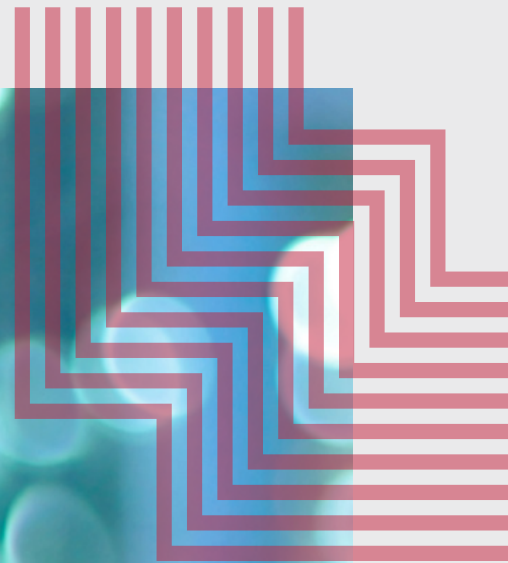
Planning & Monitoring

COMMUNICATION
POLICY

D2L GRADEBOOK

INSIGHTS
DASHBOARDS





Question:

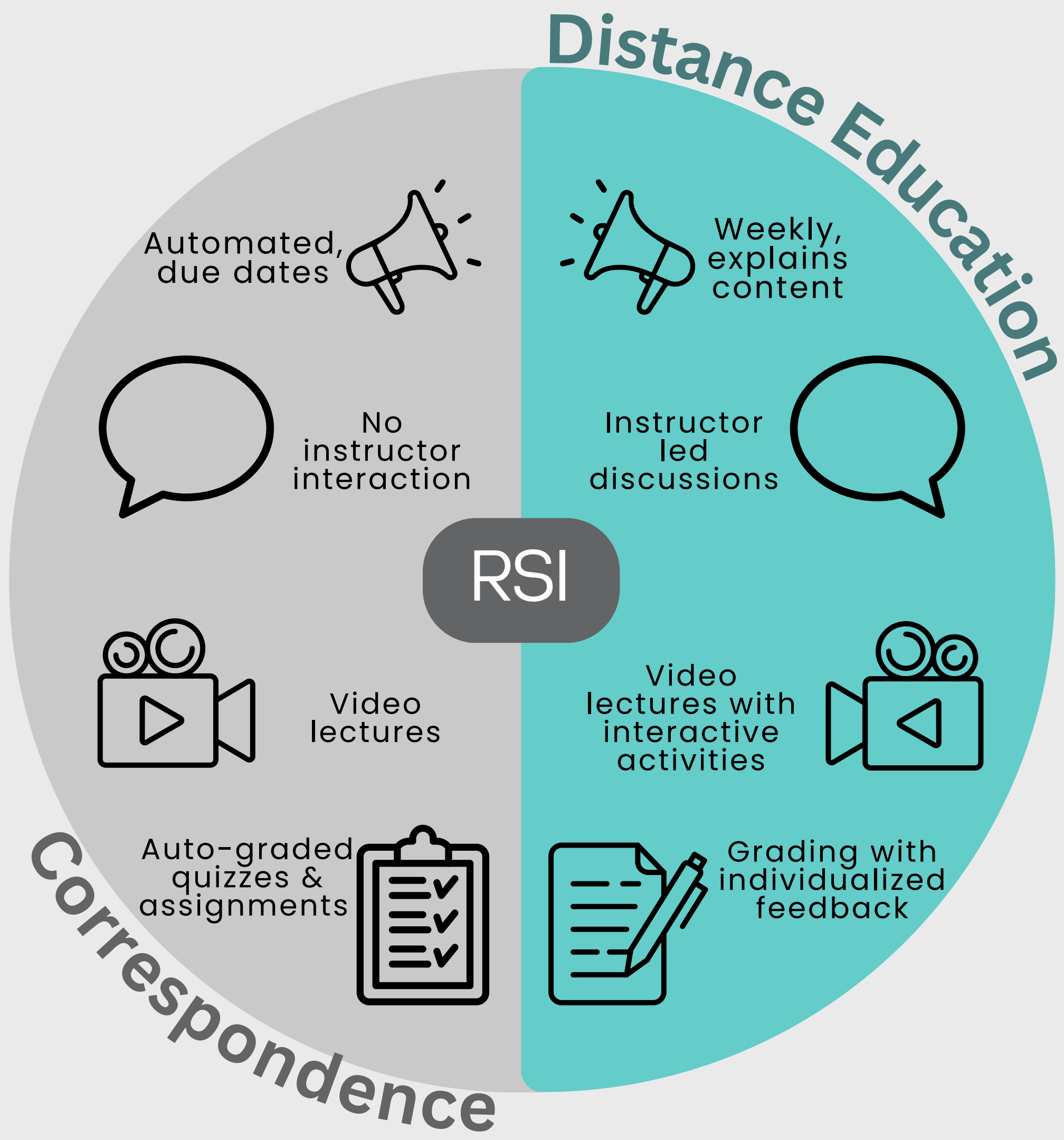
What technology tools do you use to regularly interact with your online students?



RSI & D2L Tools

[Correspondence vs. DE Chart](#)

[Distance Ed RSI Webpage](#)

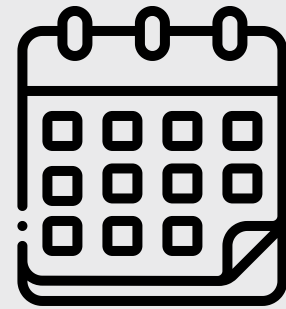


Review



INSTRUCTOR INITIATED

How do you reach out to students?



SCHEDULED & PREDICTABLE

When do you reach out to students?

Is it on a regular basis?



ACADEMIC & RELEVANT

What do you reach out to students about?

- Direct instruction
- Academic feedback
- Responding to questions
- Facilitating discussions



PROACTIVE MONITORING

How to you monitor student progress and success?

What do you do with this information?

How confident are you in knowing how to meet the requirements of RSI?

The confusion never ends!

1

2

3

4

5

Yes! Got it!

What questions do you have?

References

Kerensky, K. (2022). Regular and substantive interaction update: Where do we go from here? WCET. [Link](#)

Sun, H.-L., Sun, T., Sha, F.-Y., Gu, X.-Y., Hou, X.-R., Zhu, F.-Y., & Fang, P.-T. (2022). The influence of teacher–student interaction on the effects of online learning: Based on a serial mediating model. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 13. [Link](#)



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