



## Instructor Interaction Statement

Online courses have the reputation for being isolating, but they shouldn't feel that way, nor do they need to! One way to indicate to students that you are present and have built a highly interactive course is by including an instructor interaction statement in your syllabus.

### Effective Instructor Interaction Statements:

- Build [instructor presence](#) immediately.
- Keep students connected and focused on learning.
- Reduce a student's feeling of isolation through a consistent level of instructor availability.
- Save the instructor time by anticipating common student questions.
- Show students you care about their success through frequent and consistent interaction.

The statement outlines how often and through which means you will be available to students during the course. It also tells students how you expect them to interact with you.

### Instructor Interaction Statements include:

#### How frequently you will log into the course space and how quickly students will hear from you

- [WSU Online Teaching Standards](#) require instructors to access the course at least three times a week and provide a 24-hour response time from instructors to students in answer to emails/questions/concerns.

#### Your availability evenings and weekends

- Most online students are completing their course work during this time and may need your help most on the weekends. Instructor availability during this time through email and course space monitoring can improve student success and increase instructor presence.

#### Expected turnaround time for grading, and if it differs for exams, quizzes, and assignments

- Receiving grades promptly for coursework keeps students knowledgeable of their current progress and helps them prepare for future action in the course (i.e. More intense learning in a subject that is not well understood or visiting the instructor during office hours).

#### How students should contact you and for which types of issues

- Define which communication medium to use for different types of questions. For example, instruct students to use the "Ask the Instructor" discussion for common course questions and email for personal or confidential questions.

#### Specific expectations for student written communication

- Let students know how to address you (i.e. Dr. [name], or simply your first name). For example, students should have a subject line matching the message content, use complete sentences (no slang), and correct grammar and punctuation.

Ideally, the tone of your Instructor Interaction statement will be warm and welcoming. Think of the conversation you have with students on the first day of class and apply it to this statement.

### Sample Instructor Interaction Statement

- [Sample Instructor Interaction Statement](#)

Let's explore the possibilities together!