

Principles of Effective Online Teaching



Great Plains IDEA values, and strives to provide, the highest quality in distance education. These guiding principles are meant to assist Great Plains IDEA faculty in developing exceptional pedagogy and curriculum for online courses. Adopted by the Human Sciences Board of Directors on October 25, 2016.

<p>Principle 1: Student-Faculty Contact Clear guidelines and policies regarding communication, regular communication with students throughout the course, and using proactive course management strategies enhances student-faculty interaction.</p>	<p>Principle 2: Cooperation Among Students Student engagement in the course, and with each other, is increased when instructors design coursework which facilitates cooperative “meaning-making” among students.</p>
<p>Principle 3: Active Learning Student-to-student sharing of completed coursework provides motivation and encourages peer discussion.</p>	<p>Principle 4: Prompt and Meaningful Feedback Students benefit when instructors provide two types of feedback: information feedback and acknowledgement feedback.</p>
<p>Principle 5: Deadlines and Consistent Patterns of Course Activities Clear deadlines and consistent patterns of course activities help students manage busy schedules and encourage regular communication.</p>	<p>Principle 6: High Expectations High expectations are established through challenging assignments, discussions, and examples of good work.</p>
<p>Principle 7: Diverse Talents and Ways of Learning Making courses and documents accessible, allowing students to choose project format and project topics, and integrating student led discussions helps incorporate diverse views into online courses and accommodates all students.</p>	<p>Principle 8: Course Quality Online courses are best when instructors continually monitor and improve the quality of their online courses.</p>

References

The Advisory Board Company. (2010). *Engaging faculty in online education: Rightsizing incentives and optimizing support*. Washington, DC. 91-92.

Magna Publications. (n.d.). 10 principles of effective online teaching: Best practices in distance education. *Distance Education Report*. Madison, WI.