



REGULAR AND SUBSTANTIVE INTERACTION (RSI)

**What It Is, Why it Matters, and
How to Accomplish**

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PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE PATHWAY

- ✓ DE Committee (9/19/2025)
- ✓ Accreditation committee (9/22/2025; information)
- ✓ Academic senate vote of support (10/1/2025)
- ☐ **Faculty Chairs (10/10/2025; information)**
- ↓ College Council (10/15/2025)
- ↓ President's Executive Council



WHAT IS RSI?

Instructor-initiated and predictable academic engagement with students.

We must clearly demonstrate RSI in Distance Education (DE) courses.

WHY THIS RSI POLICY MATTERS

ACCJC Requirement

- Select sample of fully online courses.
- Verify that 85% demonstrate RSI at the initial level (ACCJC rubric).
- Use SBVC's adopted policy.



We must establish our policy so we can do the rest of the work!

Why We Need Our Policy

- Communicate expectations.
- Evaluate current practices.
- Support faculty success.



REGULAR INTERACTION FOR DE COURSES

Course Length	Minimum Regular Interaction	Rationale
12 weeks or longer	At least once per week	Standard pacing
Fewer than 12 weeks	More than once per week	Accelerated pacing

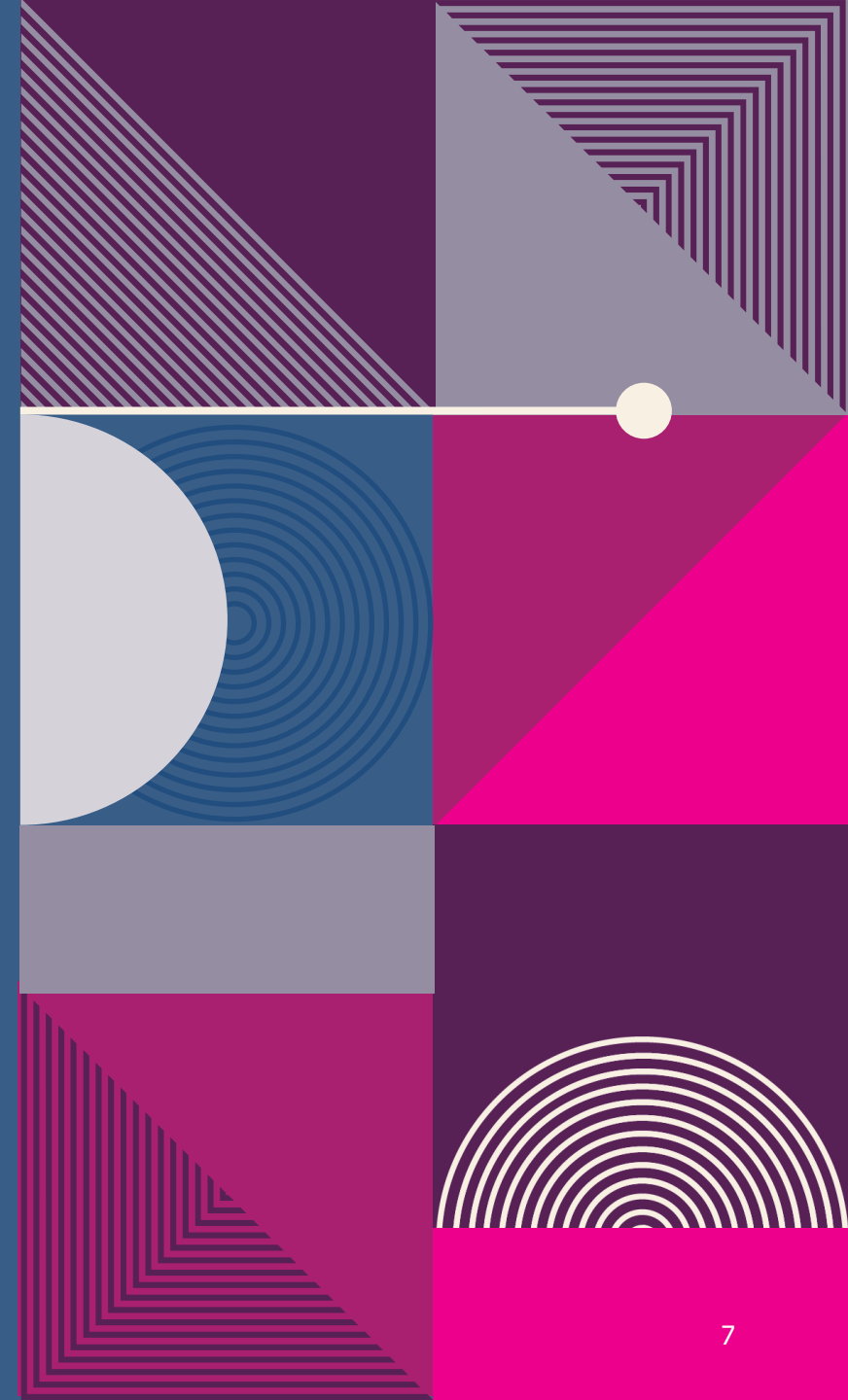
WHAT COUNTS AS RSI



- Synchronous office hours
- Instructional announcements with academic framing
- Personalized feedback
- Proactive outreach
- Instructor-initiated content delivery
- Instructor-facilitated discussions

WHAT DOESN'T COUNT AS RSI

- By-appointment office hours
- Logistical class announcements or individual messages
- Automatically graded assignments without feedback
- Passive observation or grading of Discussions





NON-RSI ACTIVITIES ARE STILL IMPORTANT

Don't delete!

Each online course contains a variety of communication, interactions, assignments, and feedback.

Ensure compliance

For example:

- Include some instructor-facilitated discussions to meet RSI.
- Keep some discussions that are observed to maintain student-student interaction.



NEXT STEPS

- Perform campus audit.
- Develop plan to achieve > 85% compliance.
- Communicate, communicate, communicate!
- Provide workshops, one-on-one support, examples of best practices, etc.