



DE NEWS

DE Committee Charge

The Distance Education Committee is responsible for establishing and maintaining standards for the quality, accessibility, and integrity of distance education at Valley College. The committee maintains faculty oversight of distance education pedagogy, course quality standards, regular and substantive interaction policy, accessibility and ADA compliance for online courses, and faculty preparation for online and hybrid instruction. The committee develops, reviews, and recommends policies that ensure distance education courses meet the same standards of rigor, equity, and student engagement as face-to-face instruction, consistent with Title 5 §§55200–55210 and ACCJC standards. Recommendations are forwarded to the Academic Senate for final action.

DE Committee Chairs

Faculty Co-Chair: Davena Burns-Peters
Administration Co-Chair: Lorrie Burnham

Meeting Schedule

1st and 3rd Thursdays 3:00 pm–5:00 pm PS 135

District DE Resources and Support

SBCCD Faculty Resources Canvas

email: helpdesk@sbccd.edu

Welcome to Fall 2026!

Welcome to another semester of online teaching and learning. Online education expands equity and access, helping students engage in meaningful learning experiences that support their diverse needs and goals. Your commitment to high-quality online instruction plays a vital role in student success and the overall student experience.

The SBVC Distance Education Team (DE Faculty Lead and Committee) is dedicated to supporting faculty in creating online courses that are engaging, substantive, accessible, and aligned with quality standards and best practices. Throughout the year, we will share resources, professional development opportunities, updates, and strategies to support your success.

We are excited to bring back regular SBVC DE newsletters, beginning with this first issue of the semester. We look forward to partnering with you as we continue to enhance the online learning experience for our students. Wishing you a successful Fall semester!

The SBVC Distance Education Team

RSI Support

As the first week of the semester comes to a close, take a moment to reflect:

- Have I established regular and predictable contact with students?
- Have I engaged students through substantive interaction?
- Is my Communication Plan complete and easy for students to locate?

The RSI Self-Evaluation Rubric, completed during course preparation, serves as both a planning and reflection tool to help you monitor regular and substantive interaction throughout the semester. Refer back to your rubric to confirm that the interactions you intended for this week were implemented and to plan for the week ahead. If adjustments are needed, that is perfectly normal. A blank copy of the RSI Self-Evaluation Rubric is also available on the [Distance Education Faculty Resources](#) page under Resources.

As a reminder, regular interaction is predictable, consistent, and scheduled. Examples include weekly course announcements that introduce and frame upcoming content, regularly scheduled office hours, and weekly wrap-up or summary messages.

Substantive interaction involves meaningful instructor-initiated engagement that supports student learning. These interactions are specific to the students in a particular course instance and may include:

- Announcements that address common questions, trends, or challenges observed in the course.
- Reinforcement of key concepts based on instructor observations.
- Clarification of expectations in response to student needs.
- Facilitation of discussion boards.
- Personalized feedback on student work.
- Proactive outreach regarding student progress and success.

Remember that RSI is more than a compliance requirement. It is one of the primary ways we establish instructor presence, foster engagement, and support student success in the online learning environment.

DE Level 1 Training

The next DE Level 1 Training starts on Monday, August 31, 2026. Register using the link below.
4 Week: August 31, 2026–September 27, 2026

DE Level 1 and Refresh Certificates

DE Level 1 certificates for training completed between June and August 2026 will be sent by Tuesday, September 1, 2026. Certificates for the Refresh training completed during the week of August 17, 2026, will be sent once the training closes on September 18, 2026.