

Distance Education Defined 34 CFR § 600.2 (July 1, 2021)

Education that uses one of the following technologies to deliver instruction to students who are separated from their instructor(s) and to support **regular and substantive** interaction between students and the instructor(s), either synchronously or asynchronously:

- The internet;
- One-way and two-way transmission through open broadcast closed circuit, cable, microwave, broadband lines, fiber optics, satellite or wireless communications devices;
- Audio conference; or
- Other media used in a course in conjunction with any of the technologies listed above.

Student Academic Engagement 34 CFR § 600.2 (July 1, 2021)

“Active participation by a student in an instructional activity related to the student's course of study” that...

- Is defined by the institution in accordance with any applicable requirements of its State or accrediting agency;
- Includes and Excludes specific activities...
Includes
 - a) Attending a synchronous class, lecture, recitation, or field or laboratory activity, physically or online, where there is an opportunity for interaction between the instructor and students;
 - b) Submitting an academic assignment or taking an exam;
 - c) Participating in an interactive tutorial, webinar, or other interactive computer-assisted instruction;
 - d) Participating in a study group, group project, or an online discussion that is assigned by the institution; or
 - e) Interacting with an instructor about academic matters.

Excludes

- a) Living in institutional housing or participating in a meal plan;
- b) Logging into an online class or tutorial without further participation; or
- c) Participating in academic counseling or advisement.

Regular and Substantive Interaction (85 Fed. Reg. 54758, 54760, & 54762 (Sep. 2, 2020))

“Regular” is defined as taking place on a “***predictable and scheduled basis***”

“Substantive” means students are engaged through teaching, learning, assessment **AND at least 2 of the 5 activities with their instructor:**

- 1) Providing direct instruction
- 2) Assessing or providing feedback on a student’s course work
- 3) Providing information or responding to question about the content, course, or competency
- 4) Facilitating a group discussion regarding the content of a course or competency
- 5) Other instructional activities approved by the institution’s or program’s accrediting agency

Examples:

- Discussion boards
- Answering questions via discussion, phone, email, etc.
- Hosting class meetings
- Office hours
- Substantive interactions take place at the course or competency level and not at the instructor level.
- Substantive interaction must be **initiated by instructors**.
- Interactions with machines or other forms of technology that do not involve the instructor would **not** qualify as Substantive Interaction. (Cengage, Math Lab, etc.)
- Interaction must be on content/course material.