

New Regular Substantive Interaction (RSI) Rubric for ACCJC Review of Online Courses

Meeting Accreditation Standards
during Cañada's current review cycle



Academic Senate, November 14, 2024

Enrollment in numbers

pre / post pandemic

Enrollment By Modality	2018-2019	2023-2024
Face to Face	68%	35%
Hybrid	7%	16%
Online	26%	38%
Synchronous	0%	10%

Source: Cañada PRIE

In support of the [ACCJC 2030 Strategic Plan](#), ACCJC launched a [Strategic Initiative](#) to [enhance quality instruction](#) and [improve equitable student outcomes](#) in the Distance Education modality.

RSI as Accreditation Standard

- distinguishes online courses from correspondence courses
- establishes good teaching practices



Perspective

ACCJC
Accreditation Standard
Title V
Regulations
Ed Code



College existence
Student learning
Student retention
Achieving career goals
Getting student aid



RSI-Aligned Course Elements

- Instructor-initiated (creating opportunities)
- REGULAR
Predictable, timely, scheduled in advance
- SUBSTANTIVE
Specific to course content
- Documented in the Canvas course
(for ACCJC reviewers to see)
- Explained in Communication plan
(followed diligently)



RSI Language

(US Department of Education; July 1 2021)

(4) For purposes of this definition, **substantive interaction** is engaging students in teaching, learning, and assessment, consistent with the content under discussion, and also includes at least two of the following—

- a) Providing direct instruction;
- b) Assessing or providing feedback on a student's coursework;
- c) Providing information or responding to questions about the content of a course or competency;
- d) Facilitating a group discussion regarding the content of a course or competency; or
- e) Other instructional activities approved by the institution's or program's accrediting agency.

(5) An institution ensures **regular interaction** between a student and an instructor or instructors by, prior to the student's completion of a course or competency—

- a) Providing the opportunity for substantive interactions with the student on a predictable and regular basis commensurate with the length of time and the amount of content in the course or competency; and
- b) Monitoring the student's academic engagement and success and ensuring that an instructor is responsible for promptly and proactively engaging in substantive interaction with the student when needed on the basis of such monitoring, or upon request by the student.

2026: Cañada Accreditation Review

Requirement

2025 Goal: **RSI Rubric Alignment** for every Cañada online course
(synchronous OR asynchronous)

Reality

NOT a new process

- RSI has been in existence for a long time (under a different name)
- Sample courses have been reviewed for RSI during previous accreditations
- **The only new part: RSI Rubric**
 - ~ currently as pilot; finalized in Jan'25
 - ~ more objective review

Most online courses already meet most criteria!

Timeline: RSI Compliance at Cañada

Flex Day (Jan 10, 2025) Presentation

- Personal invites to Online Faculty
- Final RSI Rubric & Examples
- Q&A session
- Faculty self-evaluation
- Faculty begin to plan changes
- Individualized facilitator input (time-permitting)

RSI Rubric Alignment

Early action benefits

- Less stress
- More support

Online courses
taught with fully
compliant RSI

AS Discussion

Oct '24

Dec '24

Jan '25

Spring '25

Fall '25

Spring '26

Flex Day (Oct 9, 2024)
Presentation
RSI

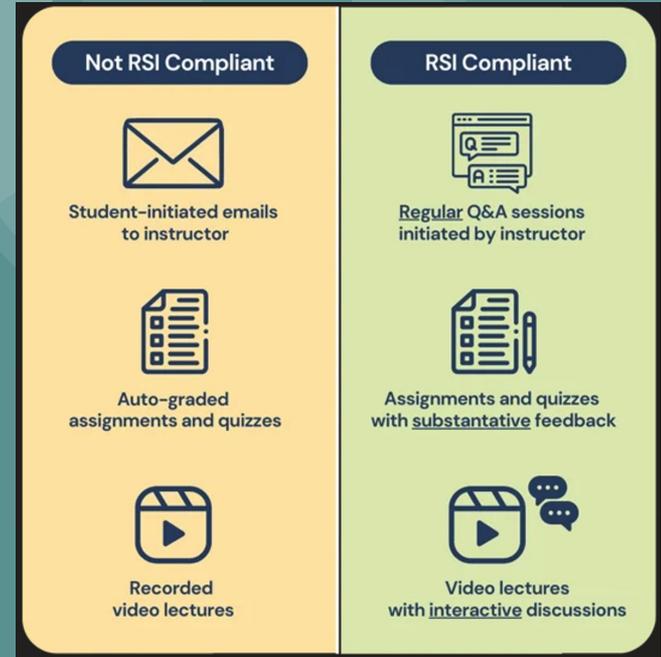
Weekly
office hours

Flex Day (Apr 17, 2025)
RSI Workshop

ACCJC Review
of F25 Course Sample

Questions for the Academic Senate

- General questions?
- Plan modifications?
- How thorough can/should we be?
 - Requirement v. Recommendation
 - Random course pre-assessment?
- Additional Steps?
 - Cañada RSI Resolution (“policy”)
 - RSI-specific Training (# hours)



Call-to-Action for Cañada Online Faculty

Step 1: Attend Flex Presentation (Jan 10, 2025)

- high importance!

Step 2: Receive one-on-one support

- as needed
- weekly (Tuesday) office hour (noon - 1 pm)
- make an appointment: nekrepn@smccd.edu

Step 3: Attend Flex Workshop (Apr 17, 2025)

- as needed