



Accreditation Committee RSI Update

October 6, 2026

Regular Substantive Interaction



- Federal requirements for regular & substantive interaction (RSI)
 - a. 34 C.F.R. §600.2: Distance education means education that uses ... technologies* ... to deliver instruction to students who are separated from the instructor and to support regular and substantive interaction between the students and the instructor, either synchronously or asynchronously.
- All online courses & programs for which students may use Title IV funds (federal financial aid) must include RSI
- RSI distinguishes distance education from correspondence education

*Technologies include (1) The internet; (2) One-way and two-way transmissions through open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, broadband lines, fiber optics, satellite, or wireless communications devices; (3) Audio conferencing; or (4) Video cassettes, DVDs, and CD-ROMs, if the cassettes, DVDs, or CD-ROMs are used in a course in conjunction with any of the technologies listed in paragraphs (1) through (3) of this definition.

Accreditation and RSI



- Accrediting agencies must verify RSI as part of the comprehensive review process
- Peer review teams look for alignment with:
 - a. The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) [Policy on Distance Education and Correspondence Education](#), which incorporates federal regulations and definitions related to RSI
 - b. Standard 2.6: The institution uses delivery modes and teaching methodologies that meet student and curricular needs and promote student learning and achievement for all students.
- Bottom line: RSI promotes student success!

CCSF RSI Efforts



- DE Coordinator proposed 'RSI Checks' project to DLAC as an action item; after lengthy discussion the committee voted not to move forward with this project
 - Proposal - DE Coordinator would check % of courses each semester for alignment with the initial level of the Quality Continuum Rubric for Distance Education
 - Key concerns and questions: What happens if not aligned? What do we do with this information? This feels like a faculty evaluation and should be governed by contract
- RSI in Action Flex Day workshop, January 2026
 - Strong attendance by faculty (150+)

CCSF RSI Efforts



- Conducted a Communication Plan audit in Spring 2026
 - 93% of online faculty have Communication Plan in Simple Syllabus
 - Reached out to 31 faculty without Communication Plan; 15 promptly responded and took action
 - Reasons for no Communication Plan included located in another place in the course and forgotten to publish it.
 - Approximately 3% of courses without communication plan at end of semester
- Communication plan reminder sent out to faculty at start of Fall 2026 semester; faculty provided a template communication plan