



Academic Senate for College of the Canyons

STANDING POLICY

Online & OnlineLIVE Instructor Certification Requirements

Summer & Fall 2021 and 2022 and Subsequent Semesters

Section 55208(b) of Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) holds “Instructors of distance education shall be prepared to teach in a distance education delivery method consistent with local district policies and negotiated agreements.” Accreditation Standard 3.A.11 of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) states and requires, “The institution establishes, publishes, and adheres to written personnel policies and procedures.”

At College of the Canyons the Academic Senate establishes distance education (Online) instructor certification standards. In so doing, the Academic Senate regularly collaborates with the Office of Instruction and its Office of Online Education. The state of emergency declared by the Governor of the State of California as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency resulted in ongoing declared emergency orders by the Chancellor of the Office of California Community Colleges. Therefore, and in recognition of such circumstances, the Academic Senate establishes the following distance education/online instructor certification requirements to be in effect for the summer and fall, 2021 semesters and thereafter:

1. All provisional online certifications originally set to expire on June 6, 2021, as outlined in the adopted standards per Academic Senate action on October 1, 2020, will be honored and extended to December 31, 2021 after which time they will permanently expire.
2. Instructors possessing only provisional online instructor certification should not be assigned nor allowed to teach 100%, asynchronous ONLINE classes during the 2021 summer and fall terms.
3. The Academic Senate, in collaboration with the Office of Instruction, intends to establish a new OnlineLIVE instructor certification standard. All current provisionally certified online instructors must complete this new OnlineLIVE certification training to be assigned and teach synchronous OnlineLIVE classes for all 2022 terms and thereafter.
4. Provisionally certified instructors also have the option to complete the traditional IOI online instructor certification course thereby permitting them to teach OnlineLIVE classes for the Winter, Spring and Summer 2022 terms only (*see #5 below for context*), and 100% ONLINE classes in 2022 and thereafter.
5. Beginning in Fall 2022 and thereafter, all instructors intending to be assigned and permitted to teach OnlineLIVE synchronous classes must have completed the new OnlineLIVE instructor certification training. Completion of the traditional IOI Online Instructor Certification course will no longer be recognized as permitting instructors to teach OnlineLIVE synchronous classes for the Fall 2022 terms and thereafter.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on higher education has resulted in a recognition of synchronous virtual instruction as having become a new, unique pedagogical modality. This modality is being institutionalized throughout the California and National systems of higher education, as evidenced by a recently established @One synchronous instruction training course. To maintain academic standards during the continued COVID-19 pandemic, as well as throughout the eventual post-pandemic environment, the Academic Senate is prepared to assist in the development of and endorse a local OnlineLIVE synchronous instruction certification course for the betterment of students, faculty and education. As a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic we have needed, and will continue for the foreseeable future, to serve our students with OnlineLIVE synchronous instruction. Developing the same care and delivery of this new format as we have done for fully online instruction is an academic and professional matter and responsibility.

CCR Title 5 Section 55204(a) establishes the requirement of regular and effective contact between instructors and students and designates such standard to be an academic and professional matter within the purview of the Academic Senate per Title 5, Section 53200, *et seq.*

This policy is adopted toward the betterment of student learning and to ensure, among other things, such regulatory and professional standards are upheld.

Approved by the Academic Senate April 1, 2021