



TOP TEN

Ten Strategies WTCC Students Say Make Online Teaching and Learning an EPIC Success!

1

Routines, Schedules, Expectations, Organization, Structure!

Research indicates structured weekly lessons that follow a routine help students learn how to be organized. WTCC student comments indicate they like regular/routine “due dates” for assignments and projects. A course calendar helps students manage their time better. Course and assignment expectations must be communicated clearly and concisely.

2

Feedback—Comments and Gradebook

Students like the gradebook to be kept up-to-date, with assignments and projects graded in a timely manner with feedback. Responsiveness to student inquiries and prompt return of graded work with informative feedback contributes to better student satisfaction. These two items help students learn how to be accountable for their own learning. Timely grading with feedback helps students learn from their mistakes and improve their skills.

3

Be Present!

Take time to show you care! The personal touch and the “little things” are what mean a lot to WTCC students.

4

Communication

Improve/increase all categories of communication (student to student, instructor to student, student to content). Research shows increased communication improves student outcomes. Students learn better when they feel a part of a community. Improving communications with instructors and/or peers may help to decrease the withdrawal rates.

5

Varied Instructional Presentations

Use a variety of modes to relate course content to students (videos, avatars, PowerPoint presentations, small group collaboration, independent activities, learning apps, etc.).

Discussion Forums

Discussion forums provide students an opportunity to interact with their instructor and classmates. Interactions with classmates allow students to use their new knowledge, formulate and express ideas and opinions, as well as broaden their perspectives on relevant issues by hearing from classmates.

From the overall WTCC student written end-of-course comments/feedback, students value opportunities to interact with others in their classes in meaningful ways.

6

Assessment

Allow multiple ways for students to demonstrate their mastery of course content. Well-planned and meaningful (not busy work) formative and summative assessments give instructors and students a great deal of helpful information about how the semester is progressing. Help students learn how to use assessment feedback to improve their learning.

7

Chunked Content

Long lectures probably are not the best way to engage a face-to-face class and are even more ineffective online. Review the amount of content covered in each week or module. “Chunking” the content in manageable segments provides a better opportunity for students to comprehend and then use their new knowledge or skills.

8

Reminders

WTCC students appreciate a quick, follow-up reminder of required class assignments, tests, or missed homework. There are many reminder apps to choose from, but the following are some examples: Remind (formerly Remind101), Any.Do, To Do Reminder, & DUE.

9

Relevance

WTCC students say they like to know how and what they are learning connects to the “real world.” Doing so provides them with a context for learning.

10