Best Online Teaching and Learning Practices

Online teaching and learning is a shared commitment between faculty and students to fully participate in creative explorations and discussions. It requires all participants to be present, prepared, and ready to engage. A collective dedication to producing quality work and safe learning environments helps ensure meaningful online teaching and learning experiences.

1. Students and faculty are aware of lighting, sound, and background items in the room.
2. It is necessary for the class community to establish a way in which participants will share and discuss concepts – such as raise hand or colored cards, or the chat with a monitor that rotates.
3. Mute sound unless you wish to talk.
4. The cohort model works well for specific courses/degree programs. The cohort model enables students to know each other and progress together. The cohort model creates a community of shared interest and community of practice. Research shows that faculty and students do best when they know each other.
5. Focus on 'Active' Learning. Let your course include discussion, peer-to-peer collaboration, video and audio clips, hands-on exercises with text, and brief video lectures (10-15 minute chunks).
6. Clear assignments and deadlines are essential. Straight-forward communication of what is expected and the timelines for completion are important.
7. Students and faculty respond thoughtfully, and effectively. Thoughtful personal responses have a positive effect. They humanize the online learning experience for both the faculty and the students.
8. Multiple means of engagement enhance the connection of the learner to the course objectives and facilitate the learning experience. To do this, leverage a variety of available tools, including typed responses, VoiceThread, Video Clips of Creative Process, Adobe
9. Easy access to faculty and other classmates make a big difference. The faculty-student and student-student relationship is critical to humanizing the teaching and learning experience in a mixed and online course.