Integrating Instructor Presence

Improving student success in fully online programs

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Purpose Behind the Study
This study seeks to develop tools to improve instructor presence and interactions with students in fully online programs to develop community and improve student success and completion rates.

Research Question
To what extent does instructor participation in a PD focusing on the model of “instructor presence” improves feedback and online interactions with students?

Theories

Community of Inquiry: How does the integration of teaching, cognitive, and social presence impact the student sense of community and ultimately student success?

Sense of Community: What impact does increasing a sense of community have on student success in online learning and eventual completion of their degree program?

Background and Initial Research

- Paired Courses
- Instructor Presence & Community
- Redesign Cohort

Innovation Revisions

Dissertation research will focus on an innovation that facilitates instructors learning in a redesign cohort. Instructors will learn how to better integrate instructor presence and sense of community in a format that models best practices and provides instruction on implementing strategies into the courses they have already developed.