Research Spotlight: Strategies for Remote Teaching and Learning

As UC Davis shifts to remote teaching in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, instructors may wonder how to adapt their courses to effectively use instructional technologies. The following strategies reflect recommendations from UC Davis' Keep Teaching website and findings from two recent scholarly articles about teaching during the COVID-19 pandemic.

STRATEGY 1: Preparation

Create backup plans to anticipate challenges with remote learning.

- Add a statement about backup plans for unanticipated events in the Canvas Syllabus to set student expectations.
- Ask students to enable Canvas notifications and to look to Announcements for guidance if technical issues arise.
- Practice using Zoom's security and participant controls to quickly manage your audience.

STRATEGY 2: Communication

Focus on audio quality and captioning to improve communication with students.

- Practice recording in Zoom before the quarter begins to ensure sound quality, and consider upgrading your microphone.
- Use captions in AggieVideo and audio transcripts in Zoom to make recorded videos more accessible.
- Restate key points during Zoom meetings to reiterate critical content and highlight student ideas.

STRATEGY 4: Frequent Feedback

Provide regular feedback to inform students about their learning progress.

- Host live office hours and small group discussions on Zoom to address students' course questions.
- Provide feedback on graded work through Gradescope to improve students' understanding of course lessons.
- Check writing assignments for originality with Turnitin to educate students about plagiarism.

STRATEGY 3: Learner Equity

Plan equitable learning experiences to meet students' learning needs.

- Organize lessons in Canvas Modules to provide a clear course structure that guides out-of-class learning.
- Pre-record in AggieVideo and embed the videos on Canvas Pages to provide on-demand instructional material.
- Consult the Student Disability Center to arrange assistive technologies for students with disabilities.

STRATEGY 5: Authentic Assessments

Generate student interest by designing activities around real-world issues.

- Introduce a current event in Zoom Breakout Rooms or Canvas Discussions to help students relate concepts to global issues.
- Facilitate team projects and workspaces in Canvas Groups to encourage collective problem-solving on real-world issues.

References:

Bao, W. (2020). COVID-19 and online teaching in higher education: A case study of Peking University. Human Behavior and Emerging Technologies.

Daniel, S. J. (2020). Education and the COVID-19 pandemic. PROSPECTS.

(n.d.). Keep Teaching: Strategies and Resources for Instructional Resilience | Keep Teaching. https://keepteaching.ucdavis.edu

UCDAVIS
ACADEMIC TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

To consult with an instructional designer about remote teaching strategies and technologies, contact instructionaldesign@ucdavis.edu.