



Seven Principles for Good Practice

The “Seven Principles for Good Practice in Undergraduate Education” by Chickering & Gamson (1987), are applicable to online instruction. Gramham, Cagiltay, Lim, Craner, and Duffy (2001) used these principles to evaluate online courses in a professional school at a large Midwestern university. The “Seven Principles for Good Practice in Undergraduate Education” and lessons they learned for online instruction that correspond to the original seven principles are as follows:

Principle 1: Good Practice Encourages Student-Faculty Contact

Lesson for online instruction: Instructors should provide clear guidelines for interaction with students.

Principle 2: Good Practice Encourages Cooperation Among Students

Lesson for online instruction: Well-designed discussion assignments facilitate meaningful cooperation among students.

Principle 3: Good Practice Encourages Active Learning

Lesson for online instruction: Students should present course projects

Principle 4: Good Practice Gives Prompt Feedback

Lesson for online instruction: Instructors need to provide two types of feedback: information feedback and acknowledgment feedback.

Principle 5: Good Practice Emphasizes Time on Task

Lesson for online instruction: Online courses need deadlines.

Principle 6: Good Practice Communicates High Expectations

Lesson for online instruction: Challenging tasks, sample cases, and praise for quality work communicate high expectations.

Principle 7: Good Practice Respects Diverse Talents and Ways of Learning

Lesson for online instruction: Allowing students to choose project topics incorporates diverse views into online courses.

Additional information discussed by the researchers relating to how to apply each of the seven principles is available in their article.

Chickering, A., & Ehrman, S. (1997). Implementing the seven principles: Technology as a lever. *American Association of Higher Education Bulletin*. Retrieved March 3, 2006, from <http://www.tltgroup.org/promgrams/seven.html>

eCollege Tips

A Quick Guide to Uploading Files

Have you ever been in the midst of uploading a file into the eCollege System and feel as though it will never finish? Sometimes uploading large files can be a little tricky, so here are a few things to keep in mind when doing so:

- ◆ Although eCollege doesn't place a file size limitation, it is recommended that

eCollege Training Sessions

Training sessions on specific eCollege components and instructional software tools are available for the design and development of your online course.

To find out more about each session or to register for one or more sessions go to www.tamu-commerce.edu/itde. Select the 'training' link under Instructional Design on the left navigation bar.

Although eCollege doesn't place a file size limitation, it is recommended that when using a dial-up connection, limit the file size uploads to 2mb and less than 10mb when on a broadband or high-speed connection.

◆ Try to limit the *name* of your file to under 13 characters, and avoid using any spaces or special characters (& / *).

◆ If you're uploading the file from a CD or other drive, it's best to save it first to your Desktop and then upload to eCollege from that location.

* * *

Course Homepage: The Course Checklist Feature

Use the Course Checklist as another way for your students to keep track of activities and due dates in the course. The Course Checklist feature (found on the Course Homepage below What's New) shows students and instructors an outline of the course, arranged by unit and content item. If the instructor populates the Due Dates field in the Course Scheduler for items containing assignments, the Checklist will show this due date. This provides students with an additional overview of the deliverables for the course. In the Student view, the Checklist interface allows students to check off items they have completed. If an item has a due date associated with it and this due date has passed, the student will get a visual reminder as the font for the missed date will turn red in the Checklist.

* * *

Open An Additional Window

There are times when working in eCollege that you want to keep the current window open and yet open another window. To do so, press CTL + N (N=new window).

***A PDF version of this newsletter is available at www.tamu-commerce.edu/itde under the Instructional Design link.*

Design on the left navigation bar.

Setting up Your eCollege Gradebook
February 5, 10:00-12:00

Adobe Presenter (Breeze)
February 6, 10:00-11:30

Respondus
February 7, 1:00-2:30

eCollege Orientation for GAs
February 8, 10:00-12:00

eCollege from a Student's Perspective
February 8, 1:00-2:00

eCollege Orientation for Faculty
February 12, 9:00-12:00

Setting up Your eCollege Gradebook
February 13, 1:00-3:00

Setting/Administering eCollege Exams
February 14, 10:00-11:30

Respondus
February 18, 10:00-11:30

Adobe Presenter
February 21, 1:00-2:30

IDU Staff

Julie A. McElhany, Ed.D.
Coordinator for Instructional Design

Dean Aslinia, M.S.
eLearning Support Specialist

Alan Francis, M.B.A.
eLearning Administrative Specialist

Jess Lamphere, B.S.
eLearning Support Specialist

Contact information for online course assistance: Email: online@tamu-commerce.edu
Phone: 903.886.5511