**Psychology Department**

1. **Assurance of Regularity.** The general goal should be that in online classes, as in onsite classes, in most cases instructors and students will be in a (virtual) classroom every week and instruction and interactions will occur.
   1. **Plan A:** All Psychology courses will have at least one RSI activity per week. Therefore, a 16-week course will include a minimum of 16 RSI activities and an 8-week course will include a minimum of 8 RSI activities.
2. **Core RSI activities.** The following list includes possible core RSI activities/assignments. These core RSI activities/assignments should mesh with the regularity plan above.
   1. **Plan A:** Core weekly RSI activities will include weekly graded discussion forums and a possible mixture of other graded course activities and assignments. For example, an instructor may only have one RSI activity planned, a discussion forum for certain weeks, whereas other weeks the instructor has planned a discussion forum and a written assignment.
   2. **RSI Activities:** There will be at least 16 required discussion forums for all 16-week courses. There will be at least 8 required discussion forums for all 8-week courses. In addition to the discussion forums, core RSI activities will include:

* Written assignments,
* Group assignments,
* Individual/group presentations,
* Other substantive, course related assignments (graded),
* Substantive and academic course announcements (such a providing overall feedback on an assignment or providing academic tips for an upcoming assignment),
* Quizzes, and/or
* Exams
  1. **Feedback:** Substantive feedback can be provided in the following ways (these are examples, not all methods need to be utilized):
* Written comments on the actual assignment in the Speedgrader.
* Comments on a detailed grading rubric in the Speedgrader.
* Individualized comments written in ‘assignment comments’ section of the Speedgrader.
* Overall feedback provided on course assignments (via Course announcements).
* Feedback provided for answer choices (on quizzes or exams).

1. **Volume of RSI Contact:** The general rule should be that ALL students in a virtual classroom will experience interactions with the instructor on a regular basis. In some cases, this may be the instructor interacting with the entire class (such as posting on a discussion forum) or providing individualized interactions to each student, for instance through substantive feedback in the Canvas Speedgrader. The following plan details what is considered “substantive” interaction in the Psychology department.
   1. **Plan A:** The following criteria details the appropriate volume and type of substantive interactions on all core RSI activities:
      1. **Discussions** - All Psychology instructors should respond to 25% of the students’ discussion posts that are posted “on-time” (for example, if the initial post/answer to the discussion question is due on Wednesday, the 25% refers to the students who post in the discussion forum by Wednesday).
         1. The responses can include interacting with the entire class (such a posting in a discussion forum) or providing an individualized, substantive interaction with student in the ‘Assignment comments’ section of the Speedgrader.
         2. If the course includes more than one weekly discussion the instructor can respond to 25% of the “on-time” posts in one forum, or a combination of responses (between the multiple forums) equal to 25% between the multiple discussion forums.
         3. The instructor can skip a week of participation in the discussion forum, during the same week an RSI writing assignment (writing assignment or midterm essay section) is due **AND** the individualized feedback guidelines presented in section III.ii.1. are met.
      2. **Individualized Feedback** - All Psychology instructors should provide individualized substantive feedback to at least 50% of the students on at least 50% of the course assignments (not including the discussion forums – only writing assignments and/or midterms essay sections).
         1. **Weekly discussion participation exception**: The instructor provides individualized substantive feedback to **ALL** of the students on an RSI writing assignment (writing assignment or midterm essay section).
      3. **Course Announcements** - All Psychology instructors should post regular course announcements. At least 15-20% of the course announcements should be academic in nature (such as overall feedback on assignments, tips for an upcoming assignment, guiding questions, critical thinking questions, etc.). For example, if a course includes two writing assignments an instructor could create the substantive course announcements around these assignments. This requirement may be waived if the instructor provides individualized, substantive feedback for all students on all course assignments.