

Philosophy: Minimum Standards for RSI

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RSI Standards for Coastline's Philosophy Department

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Note: The following are *minimum* standards. These are not *ideal* standards.

Note 2: The following are the RSI requirements. Not every assignment, however, needs to be an RSI assignment. As indicated below: A 16-week course must have at least one RSI activity for 14/16 weeks, and an 8-week course must provide at least one such assignment for 7/8 weeks.

General guide: Instructors/professors should spend at least as much time giving RSI in an online course as they would in a live course.

1. **Assurance of Regularity.** All courses will have at least one RSI activity a week.
 - **Two weeks** may be waved for 16-week courses. **One week** may be waved for an 8-week course.
 - This means 7/8 weeks for an 8-week course, and 14/16 weeks for a 16 week course.
2. **Core RSI activities.** Activities that provide an opportunity for RSI should be available for at least 7/8 weeks of an 8 week course and 14/16 weeks for a 16 week course.
 - **RSI activities may include:**
 - **Individualized feedback on student papers (when applicable).** This might take the form of any of the following...
 - Written/text comments on all student papers turned in on time.
 - Audio or video feedback for all students who turned in their paper on time.
 - **Note:** Some written assignments may only provide rubric-based (non-written/individualized) feedback. This by itself does not count as RSI for an online or live course. A rubric may, of course, be used in addition to written or audio/visual feedback.
 - **Note 2:** Stored comments that are individually selected for a student's paper, such as Turn-it-in's "quick comments" are acceptable for RSI, though instructors are encouraged to individualize feedback as much as possible.
 - **Feedback on quizzes/tests:** This might take the form of any of the following...
 - Individual written feedback in comment boxes.
 - Audio or video feedback given to individual students.
 - **Discussion forums** in which professors/instructors provide feedback to students. Discussion forum RSI can take the form of any of the following...
 - Written comments to students.
 - Written or audio/video feedback as describe in section 3.

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- Canvas rubric feedback, but this should not be the sole form of interaction with students in the forums.
 - Generalized feedback given to all students who participated in a forum based on patterns the instructor observed. These might be distributed inside or outside of the forum.
 - **Note: Discussion Forum Requirement:**
 - **Discussion forums** are especially useful for philosophy courses, and *any online philosophy courses must provide a discussion forum activity most (more than half) of the weeks of any semester. This means 9 or more for a 16 week course and 5 or more for an 8 week course.*
 - Some instructors may have discussion forum assignments that last multiple weeks, so this standard does not specify a minimum number of *assignments*. However, any active discussion assignment should expect a student to post during each week that it counts for RSI. Thus a two week forum assignment should require at least two posts by each student in order to count as an RSI activity for two weeks of the course. The instructor should actively provide feedback to students during each week that the assignment counts as RSI.
3. **Volume of RSI Contact:** *At least one* of the following RSI conditions should be met for 7/8 weeks of an 8 week course and 14/16 weeks for a 16 week course.
- **Discussion Forums: To count as RSI for a week, a discussion forum must include...**
 - **Instructor interaction with 25% of students who post their assignments on time.**
 - This can be written or audio/video feedback or both.
 - "On time" is understood to mean the official deadline for the assignment, even if that assignment is accepted late for partial credit.
 - For courses which have fewer than 40 students, instructors should give feedback to either 10 students or 100% of students who have posted their assignments on time (whichever is higher).
 - **Quizzes/tests: To count as RSI for a week, a quiz should include at least one of the following...**
 - Comments, such as those written in comment boxes, should generally be given to explain lost points or significant errors.
 - Audio or video feedback for most of the students who take the quiz.
 - Most written quiz and test questions that lose points should have some feedback explaining why.
 - **Papers:**
 - Papers should provide *substantial* feedback to students. Though the nature of this feedback may vary according to the assignment, students should be provided with enough feedback for them to understand the most important areas in which they excelled or need improvement. This might be done by any of the following methods...

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- Individualized feedback, while not required for every assigned paper/essay, *is* required to count as RSI. This can take the form of:
 - Written comments.
 - And/or audio or visual commentary.
- **Note:** Sometimes instructors may have assigned more than one of the above activities during a single week of the course. In such cases, the instructor can meet the RSI requirements for that week by providing RSI as describe above for **any one** of these assignments. Of course, doing so for multiple assignments is encouraged.
 - **Example:** Instructor feedback to students for a weekly forum assignment might be reduced during a week during which that instructor is providing large amounts of written feedback on a paper for the same class.

To reiterate: These are minimum standard. Instructors are encouraged to go beyond these standards on a regular basis.