

Open Forum Statement

Dr. Lauren Mitchell, 9/10/26

My name is Lauren Mitchell, and I am speaking today in my roles as the Instructional Designer for Distance Education, responsible for professional development related to online instruction, and as the Classified tri-chair of the Accreditation Oversight Committee.

An RSI audit (RSI stands for regular and substantive interaction) of online courses at SRJC will be part of our next accreditation cycle. In fall of 2028, the Accrediting Commission of Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) will look at a sample of our courses from spring of 2028 to determine whether we are meeting state and federal regulations for RSI.

In light of this up-coming audit, I request that the professional development committee take up this topic and make recommendations about supporting our faculty in meeting RSI requirements. Regardless of the upcoming accreditation deadlines and audit, I don't think any faculty would deny the critical importance of interaction with students to the learning process. I believe many of our faculty will easily meet the ACCJC's RSI Rubric standards, but many are simply unaware of these regulations, how to make their interaction processes and practices transparent to both auditors and, more importantly, students, and what tools are available to them to support and enhance interaction in the online environment.

I respectfully suggest that the committee consider the following ideas:

- Development of training materials that feature straight-forward, actionable steps to meet RSI requirements.
- Using venues like next year's District Designated Activities Day, PDA or the new Lunch and Learn series to educate faculty about RSI requirements, the [ACCJC RSI rubric](#), and so on.
- A faculty showcase of stellar RSI practices & materials
- Promotion of [EdTech tools](#) that are well-suited to enhance interaction in the online environment such as Pronto, VoiceThread, GoReact, Hypothesis, and so on

Finally, beyond accreditation and legal requirements, in the age of chatbots and agentic AI, most of us can instinctively feel that sustained, authentic interactions with our students are the most effective deterrent of mis-use of these new technologies. For this reason alone, RSI should be a central topic on our campus.

Resources:

[ACCJC Policy on Distance Education and on Correspondence Education](#)

[Federal \(34 CFR Part 600\) and California State \(5 CA ADC § 55204 law relevant to RSI](#)

[The ACCJC's RSI Rubric](#)

[SRJC Distance Education RSI Webpage](#)