

How the Online Environment Impacts the Instructor Role

<i>Remains the same as F2F</i>	<i>Is new/different online</i>
1. Relationship between students and instructors is key.	1. Relationship with/between students require more nurturing and facilitation in asynchronous online environment.
2. Instructor needs to plan the course.	2. Instructor must thoroughly plan and design the course prior to the start of the course; much harder to “develop a lecture on the fly”, etc.
3. Students and instructors must get to know one another.	3. Online, “getting to know each other” requires actually developing both a social presence and, for the instructor, a teaching presence. Instructors must work to develop a rapport with students.
4. Peer interaction is important.	4. Online, instructors must facilitate peer interaction through “virtual student lounges”, peer feedback assignments, etc.
5. Instructors set the pace of the course.	5. Online, setting the pace requires careful pre-planning, including building in time for interaction and reflection.
6. Class discussions are important.	6. Online discussions do not happen organically, as they sometimes do F2F. Instructors must plan and facilitate discussions. Instructors need to be active about including non-participants or lurkers.
7. Instructors help students make sense of content, information, etc.	7. Instructors are facilitators of knowledge, rather than experts who disseminate information.
8. Instructors focus on student learning.	8. Online teaching is more student-centered, rather than teacher-centered, and instructors should think about depth of learning, not just breadth.
9. Instructors need to be available to answer student questions, clarify points, etc.	9. Since there is a lack of immediacy online, instructors needs to provide help and guidance using an established communication policy, so students know when their question will be answered. Additionally, instructors can post announcements and updates, and also direct students to ask questions from their peers in a discussion forum for that purpose. Instructors should model good communication (prompt, respectful tone, etc.).
10. Feedback from instructors is vitally important.	10. Online, it is important to provide frequent and timely feedback so students can have opportunities to measure their learning and progress, and also interact with instructor.