

Teaching Distance Ed

Interactivity and Teacher Presence

We often take it for granted that students in a traditional classroom interact and communicate with their teachers on a daily basis, sometimes just by showing comprehension, interest, confusion, or boredom. Teaching at a distance alters that ability to spontaneously communicate, and that can affect learning.

Even in traditional classrooms where there is not much interaction the feeling of teacher presence is much stronger than in the electronic classroom. To compensate DE teachers should utilize the available tools to establish communication habits, and should encourage students to communicate and interact with their teacher as well as with their peers.

WebCT tools (e.g. WebCT Mail, Discussions, Chat, etc.) are a great way to increase regular communication and interaction. And by providing rich and timely feedback on students' work teachers are telling their students, "I am here, and I want to help you learn."

--Jared Stein, Instructional Designer

More on this topic...

Inman, E., Kerwin, M., & Mayes, L. (1999). *Instructor and Student Attitudes Toward Distance Learning*. Community College Journal of Research and Practice 23(6), 581-591.

Thurmond, V., Wambach, K., Connors, H, & Frey, B. (2002). *Evaluation of Student Satisfaction*. The American Journal of Distance Education, 16(3) 23:6, 169-189.

WebCT Tip of the Day

Send a mass/group email to all your students each week quickly and easily using the WebCT Mail tool. Use this once-a-week mailing to update students on happenings in the course, to remind them of due dates, or to open discussion on class topics.

Inside WebCT Mail:

1. **Compose** a new message.
2. In the **To** field click **Browse**.
3. To select all students: **Click the first name** in the list, hold the **SHIFT** key, **then click the last name (Figure 1)**.
4. To select multiple individual students: hold the **CTRL** key while you click names.
5. Click **Select**.
6. Type your message and click **Send**.

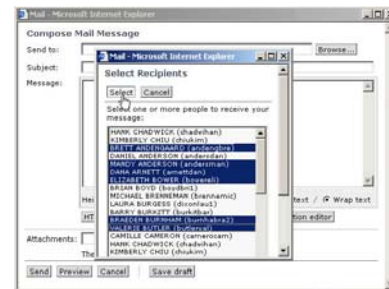


Figure 1 Use the SHIFT or CTRL keys to select multiple recipients.

If you need more help with this tool, call Jared (x8929) or Nate (x8928).

June Workshops & Training

Our workshops and trainings are designed for Distance Education faculty, though all UVSC faculty members are welcome to attend.

For more details on these and other Technology Enhanced Teaching workshops visit our web site at www.uvsc.edu/disted/faculty

Title	Date	Time	Place
WebCT Easier with PowerTools	6/2	12-1pm	CS 615B
Copyright & the Electronic Classroom	6/9	12-1pm	CS 615B
Fostering Online Ed. Communities	6/10	3-4pm	CS 615B
Instructor Presence at a Distance	6/10	4-5pm	CS 615B
DE Learning Activities	6/16	12-1pm	CS 615B
Basic Image Editing w/ Photoshop I	6/17	3-4pm	CS 615B
Basic Image Editing w/ Photoshop II	6/17	4-5pm	CS 615B
WebCT Quiz Tools	6/21	12-1pm	CS 615B
Basic Web Pages w/ Dreamweaver I	6/24	3-4pm	CS 615B
Basic Web Pages w/ Dreamweaver II	6/24	4-5pm	CS 615B
WebCT Quizzes & Respondus	6/28	12-1pm	CS 615B

To reserve your seat e-mail Jared Stein, steinja@uvsc.edu.



This newsletter was published for Distance Education by the Technology Enhanced Teaching Center at Utah Valley State College.

For more information on this newsletter or how you can contribute:
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Did You Know?

Students whose teachers communicate with them regularly report higher satisfaction, increased motivation, and greater learning success.