



September 2021 Newsletter

Fake Students, Real Problems

As if teaching online teaching in a pandemic wasn't difficult enough, 2021 brings the California Community Colleges a new challenge: fraudulent enrollment and "fake" students. Authorities believe more than 60,000 fake applications for financial aid were submitted statewide, as reported by [The Los Angeles Times](#), [The Sacramento Bee](#), and [The New York Times](#).



Early Check-In Assessments

Early check-in assessments are low stakes assignments or activities students complete *before* census to signal their intent to complete the course. They are not only helpful in identifying fake students that don't intend to participate, but have the added benefit of humanizing the online learning environment.

Early check-in assessments (graded or ungraded) come in a variety of forms, which include but are not limited to:

1. Zoom

- Create time slots for students to sign up for a brief 10-minute check-in during the first week or two. This also allows students to meet classmates and seek clarification about the course.

2. Survey

- Ask students to complete a "Getting To Know You" or "First Week" survey where you can identify specific student needs or goals.

3. Quiz

- Create a low stakes syllabus, academic integrity, or Canvas scavenger hunt type quiz to help students get acquainted with the course.

4. Discussion

- Create an ice breaker discussion to get students interacting and involved in the course.



New in Canvas: pronto



What is Pronto?

Pronto is a communication hub for faculty and students. With Pronto faculty can:

- Chat/instant message with students from their phone
- Keep track of communication and interactions
- Share files, images, and host meetings

Why Should Faculty Consider Using It?

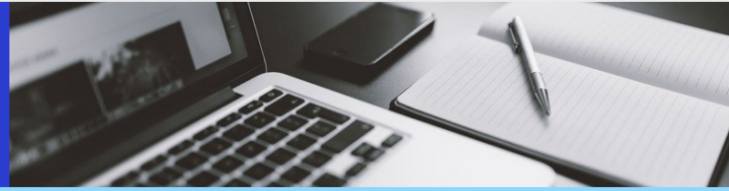
Unlike email, Pronto conversations stay organized and are easier to access. And unlike consumer chat apps, Pronto integrates in Canvas and has enterprise level security, privacy & administrative controls.

Design Elements

- [CVC-OEI Rubric Alignment](#)
 - Section B2: *Regular and Effective Contact (Instructor led)*
 - Allows instructors to send messages increasing engagement with students.
 - Section B5: *Regular and Effective Contact Among Students*
 - Allows for communication among students and builds a sense of community among learners.
- Peralta [Online Equity Rubric Alignment](#)
 - Section E1: *Technology*
 - Whether you're working from the mobile app or from within Canvas, Pronto is simple and flexible, and support is readily available.
 - Section E8: *Connection and Belonging*
 - Allows students to see and hear faculty, as well as one another, and get answers to questions in real time.

Learn More

- [Pronto Quick Start Guide](#)
- [Webinar recording](#)



Connect with Colleagues



Community of Practice

Join your Distance Education colleagues in a monthly community of practice session. The goal is to create space for faculty to collaborate regularly, share distance education practices, and advance individual and college goals.

- WHEN: **1st Wednesdays from 12:30PM - 1:30PM**. Remaining Fall dates are:
 - Wed 10/6. Topic: Regular Substantive Interaction
 - Wed 11/3. Topic: Humanizing the Online Learning Environment
 - Wed 12/1. Topic: Accessibility and Equity
- WHERE: <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/my/distance.education>

College of Alameda Distance Education Committee

The Distance Education Committee is charged with reviewing and recommending policies, procedures, and practices to achieve academic excellence and success for online students. Learn more on the [DE Committee website](#).

- WHEN: **3rd Wednesdays from 12:30PM - 1:30PM**. Remaining Fall dates are:
 - Wed 9/15
 - Wed 10/20
 - Wed 11/17
 - Wed 12/15
- WHERE: <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/my/distance.education>

Live One-On-One Help

- Call Canvas support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at (844) 592-2199.
- Contact a College of Alameda instructional designer to setup an appointment:
 - Richard Kaeser: Schedule directly [through Calendly](#) or email rkaeser@peralta.edu
 - Nora Mitchell: Schedule directly [through Calendly](#) or email hmitchell@peralta.edu
 - Stefanie Ulrey: Schedule directly [through Calendly](#) or email sulrey@peralta.edu