



## Higher Education Opportunity Act in 2008

A federal mandate appeared in the reauthorization of the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) in 2008 that requires institutions to have processes through which the institution establishes that the student who registers in a distance education course or program is the same student who participates in and completes the program and receives the academic credit.

## Student Authentication Guidelines

Because of the lack of face-to-face classroom time, it can be difficult for instructors to know if the student enrolled in an online class is the actual person who is logging in and turning in his/her own work. The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) suggests several practices to ensure student identity. In order to meet federal and authentication requirements, El Camino College will use the following methods to authenticate online students.

### A. College Course Management System

All distance education courses will use Etudes as the course management system and all students enrolled in distance education courses will have a secure login and password.

When publisher sites are used in conjunction with Etudes, the Etudes shell must contain the following at a minimum:

- Syllabus
- Class Schedule
- Announcements
- Link to the Publisher Site
- All or Some Course Weekly Interaction (e.g., discussion forums, chat, private messaging)
- All or Some Instructor-Created Content (e.g., modules, study guides, content overview and review)

Specific guidelines and approval from the Division Dean must be met before using publisher sites.

### B. Student Affirmation Statement

All distance education course syllabi will contain the following statement, which students will be required to affirm by checking the acceptance button in Etudes.

I affirm that I am the student who enrolled in this course. Furthermore, I affirm that I understand and agree to follow the regulations regarding academic integrity and the use of student data as described in the ECC Board Policy 5500 – Academic Honesty and Standards of Conduct Student Conduct Code that governs student rights and responsibilities. Failure to abide by the regulations may result in disciplinary action up to expulsion from the college as noted in ECC Administrative Procedure 5520.

### C. Plagiarism Detection Software

Distance Education instructors are encouraged to have students submit written assignments to a web-based service such as Turnitin that identifies plagiarism in student work. (Turnitin is the service provided free of charge to students and faculty via a college site license. For details, contact the Professional Development Office.)

### D. Regular Effective Contact

To help ensure that students registered for the course are truly the ones contributing to it, distance education instructors will incorporate best practices for regular effective contact as described in ECC's Regular Effective Contact Policy.