Section 1. Course Overview and Introduction

Addresses the variety of materials and material formats the instructor has chosen to present course content and enable students to meet relevant learning outcomes and, when possible, the affordability of chosen course materials.

1.1 (Core 24 REQUIRED)
Instructor uses course environment to provide clear and detailed instructions for students to begin accessing all course components, such as syllabus, course calendar, assignments, and support files.

Example: A welcome message or materials introducing course structure/ components are highly recommended.

1.2 (Core 24 REQUIRED)
Detailed instructor information is available to students and includes multiple formats for being contacted by students, availability information, brief biographical information, and a picture of the instructor.

Example: Instructor introduces him/herself to the class and provides more than one way to be contacted such as email, phone, and/or office hours (in-person and/or online).

1.3 (Core 24 REQUIRED)
Course description includes the purpose and format of the course, as well as prerequisite knowledge and competencies, if applicable.

Example: Instructor introduces the purpose of the course as well as explain the course format as either completely online or in person

1.4
Course etiquette expectations for various forms of course communication and dialog (e.g., chat, web conference, email, online discussion) are presented and clear to the student.

Example: Rules of conduct may include use of the language and formatting. See further at Netiquette: Make it Part of Your Syllabus. For blended or flipped courses, face-to-face etiquette and participation expectations (e.g., pair work, group work, discussions) are presented and clear to the student. Rules of conduct include expectations regarding listening, respecting others’ opinions, and contributing to pair and group work. To encourage student participation, the instructor may require students to complete an online post or quiz as a “ticket” for entering the face-to-face class.
1.5 (Core 24 REQUIRED)

Academic integrity or "code of ethics" is defined. Related institutional policies for students to adhere are clearly stated and/or links to those policies (e.g., online catalog; institution web page) is provided.

**Example:** Policies typically include cheating, plagiarism, and copyright. Instructor may also provide sample work that demonstrates plagiarism.

1.6

A list of technical competencies necessary for course completion is provided; identifying and delineating the role/extent the online environment plays in the total course.

**Example:** Technical competencies may include the use of Learning Management System, downloading and uploading, file management/sharing, communications tools, collaboration tools, discipline-specific software or hardware. In addition, instructors may want to point students to the [CSU Stanislaus Online Readiness Self-Assessment](https://example.com).

1.7

Instructor provides samples of student work and provides opportunity to students to ask questions.

**Example:** Instructor can do a mock exercise, show an assignment, discuss readings, and review projects.

1.8

Instructor asks students to share their own learning goals.

**Example:** Instructor encourages students to share why they take the course, and asks about the relevancy of the course to their academic degree, daily life, and potential careers.
Section 2. Assessment of Student Learning

Student Evaluation and Assessment refers to the process used to gather evidence of the achievement of the Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes (SLOs).

2.1 (Core 24 REQUIRED)
All Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes (SLOs) are specific, well defined, and measureable.

**Example:** Learning Objectives are measurable and observable, e.g. define, apply, synthesize in [Bloom’s Taxonomy](https://www.mindtools.com/content/bloom-taxonomy.html). Note: If your course level objectives are mandated and not measurable, then module or weekly level objectives should be measurable and support course level objectives.

2.2 (Core 24 REQUIRED)
Grading policy is provided in a manner that clearly defines expectations for the course and respective assignments.

**Example:** Instructor provides late submission policy and scale, weights of respective assignments, and the corresponding letter grade if scores are accumulated at the end.

2.3 (Core 24 REQUIRED)
The learning activities (including the assignments and ungraded activities) promote the achievement of the SLOs

**Example:** Instructors explain how learning activities such as assignments or discussions contribute to the achievement of the stated SLOs.

2.4 (Core 24 REQUIRED)
The assessment instruments (e.g., rubrics) are detailed and appropriate to the student work and respective outcomes being assessed. This includes assessing modes of online participation and contributions.

**Example:** There are multiple ways for students to demonstrate competence or mastery. E.g., research project, paper, tests, presentations, or multimedia projects. Students are not just grades for online participation but the quality of their participation and contributions.

2.5 (Core 24 REQUIRED)
Throughout the semester, instructor provides multiple opportunities to give feedback on students learning and to help students “self-check” their learning.

**Example:** Activities may include but not limited to blogs for reflection, peer review, practice test and draft of term paper, module summary. Instructor effectively uses Learning Management System grade book (or similar) for timely quantitative and qualitative feedback.
2.6

Throughout the semester, instructor provides multiple opportunities to solicit feedback from their students about their learning and on the course for the improvement of the course.

**Example:** Instructor may consider the use of surveys, discussion forums, or item analyses to collect feedback or attitudinal data (that goes beyond student learning outcomes) on the effectiveness or difficulty of the resources and activities (e.g., “Muddiest Point”), or item analysis of test questions in order to improve the course in the future.
Section 3. Instructional Materials and Resources

Addresses the variety of materials and material formats the instructor has chosen to present course content and enable students to meet relevant learning outcomes and, when possible, the affordability of chosen course materials.

3.1 (Core 24 REQUIRED)
Instructor provides students with adequate time and notice to acquire course materials.

Example: Instructor includes instruction in the syllabus or elsewhere in the course as to acquire course materials including textbooks, and other types of external resources.

3.2
Syllabus lists whether textbooks and materials are required or recommended.

Example: Instructor separates the materials and labels them as either required or recommended.

3.3
Instructor articulates the purpose of all materials as to how they are related to the course and module learning objectives.

Example: For required and recommended materials, there are brief statements as to the value/purpose in meeting student learning objectives/outcome(s). If external links/websites are used, the links should be self-evident or a short description of the specific link needs to be provided instead of posting a general link for students to explore.

3.4
When possible, instructor provides s options in terms of how students acquire course materials, including Open Educational Resources.

Example: Course materials include both the Open Educational Resources (e.g. MERLOT) and external materials.

3.5 (Core 24 REQUIRED)
There are a variety of instructional material types and perspectives, while not overly relying on one content type such as text.

Example: Materials types include PowerPoint, videos, and text. Multiple perspectives refer to different opinions from scholars in the field.
3.6

Modeling academic integrity, instructor appropriately cites all resources and materials used throughout the course.

**Example:** These resources and materials include text, images, tables, videos, audio, and website. In addition to citation, when possible, direct link to the source may be provided.
Section 4. Students Interaction and Community

Addresses (1) the opportunities students have to interact with the content, their peers, and their instructor, and (2) how well the course design encourages students to become active learners and contribute to the online course community.

4.1 (Core 24 REQUIRED)

At the beginning of the course, instructor provides an opportunity to have students self-introduce to develop the sense of community.

**Example:** Instructor may encourage students to post their pictures and share some personal information such as hobbies to build the community at the beginning.

4.2

Instructor provides the information about being a successful learner/student.

**Example:** For the online portion of the course, the instructor provides a self-assessment for students to identify their readiness for learning online and learning strategies or provides a link to an online readiness survey such as the [Online Readiness Self-Assessment](#) from CSU Stanislaus.

For a blended or flipped course, the instructor provides information about being a successful student in a collaborative, active learning classroom. Guidelines for active participation such as the [Rubric for Student Self-Assessment of Collaborative Work](#) are provided to students. The instructor may also provide a face-to-face course overview or tutorial on being a successful learner in a blended or flipped course.

4.3 (Core 24 REQUIRED)

Navigation throughout the online components of the course is logical, consistent, and efficient.

**Example:** Discussions are organized in clearly defined forums, threads, or communities. The course carries consistent structure for across modules.

4.4 (Core 24 REQUIRED)

Learning activities facilitate and support active learning that encourages frequent and ongoing peer-to-peer engagement.

**Example:** For all activities, a statement of the task is provided, with clear and concise outcomes that are appropriate and reasonable. Rules for collaboration, assigning roles, benchmarks and expectations of participation are clearly stated.

For a blended course, face-to-face and online content and activities are clearly connected and integrated. Any given instructional activity is appropriate to the strengths and weaknesses of
the modality (see, for example, Blended Learning: Integrating Online and Face-to-Face Courses and Designing a Partially Online Course: What goes where and when).

For a flipped course, the instructor ensures student preparation by using a variety of methods; these could include, for example, the use of online assessments (e.g., quizzes) before the face-to-face sessions that provide immediate feedback to students, as well as low-stakes assessment during the face-to-face sessions.

4.5

The modes and requirements for student interaction are clearly communicated.

Example: Requirements for participation (e.g., frequency, length, timeliness) are included in the syllabus and/or in the description of the assignment in within the module.

4.6

Instructor clearly explains his or her role regarding participation in the course. Instructor participates in, facilitates, and manages student participation, yet lets students take reasonable ownership.

Example: Instructor explains his/her role regarding participation in the course in through the syllabus, welcome video, or related materials.

Instructor works to keep students on task/topic in their online (and face-to-face, if applicable) discussions. This may be accomplished, for example, by using prompts or a structured peer discussion to orient students to the task at hand.

4.7 (Core 24 REQUIRED)

The course learning activities help students understand fundamental concepts, and build skills useful outside of the course.

Example: Learning activities engage students in learning some basic concepts, but also give students opportunities to use higher level learning skills such as apply, analyze, etc, to make connections with real-world problem solving.
Section 5. Facilitation and Instruction (Course Delivery)

Addresses how well the instructor facilitates the course, communicates with students, engages students to be active learners, and reinforces the development of a sense of community among course participants.

5.1

The instructor is helpful in identifying areas of agreement and disagreement on course topics.

**Example:** Through moderation of course discussions, instructor presents areas where ideas or viewpoints differ. S/he uses differences as teachable moments, either resolving them based on hard data or acknowledging the respective viewpoints as valid.

5.2

Instructor helps students understand the importance of course topics and content, and how they are supported by the course activities and any related practical experiences.

**Example:** It is important to make connections between the content and activities within the course, between the current course and other courses students have taken, and with related practical experiences. Additional methods of helping students understand the importance of course topics can may include, for example, observations, internships, and service learning experiences.

A specific example for a marketing course studying the principles of proper product placement and label design would be the instructor giving the students assigning the task of photographing at least two real products next time they students are out shopping. Students post the pictures to a wiki/blog, and explain the good or bad application of the principles studied. Students must cite the text and/or resources used in class to defend their reasoning.

5.3

The instructor presents the course material and concepts in an effective and engaging manner.

**Example:** Lectures are presented clearly, concisely, and at an appropriate pace. Instructor follows guidelines for effective lecturing (such as those found at Stanford’s Checklist for Effective Lecturing), including having clear objectives, an organized delivery of information, and an appropriate amount of material.

For blended or flipped courses, the lecture promotes active learning through, for example, the use of interactive activities embedded in the lecture that provide immediate online feedback (see a discussion of this in the article “Learning is not a spectator sport”.

5.4

Instructor encourages students to explore new concepts through the course experience.
Example: Rather than limiting all students to the same traditional or narrow focus, instructor allows students latitude/choice around course topics. Note: The ability to do this varies by discipline and topic.

5.5
The instructor helped to focus discussion on relevant issues.

5.6 (Core 24 REQUIRED)
The instructor provides feedback in a timely fashion.

Example: Instructor uses the Learning Management System efficiently to respond to student work submissions with scores and feedback related to strengths and/or weaknesses.

5.7
Instructor provides communications about important goals and course topics as opportunities arise.

Example: The instructor sends an announcement about a change of lecture focus and proper readings prior to class. The instructor may post a clarification on a common question about a topic.

5.8 (Core 24 REQUIRED)
Instructor provides reminders of due dates and duration of respective modules, as well as other instructions to keep students on task.

Example: Instructor enters all date ranges and due dates into the Learning Management System, and reminders are provided for students.
Section 6. Technology for Teaching and Learning

Addresses how well the instructor utilizes technology to effectively deliver course content, engage students in learning activities (individual, student-to-student, and instructor-to-student), and allow students to express themselves or demonstrate learning.

6.1

The tools and media support the course learning objectives/outcomes.

Example: Examples include use videos or animation to demonstrate the process of photosynthesis.

6.2 (Core 24 REQUIRED)

Instructor takes advantage of the current tools provided by the Learning Management System (or similar) to enhance learning.

Example: The course uses a virtual classroom for synchronous web conferencing.

6.3

Technological tools and resources used in the course enable student engagement and active learning.

Example: Instructor uses collaborative software such as Box.com to work on group projects and/or iLearn Forums to engage students in mediated learning.

6.4 (Core 24 REQUIRED)

Instructor provides clear information regarding access to the technology and related resources required in the course.

Example: Instructor provides information about where and how to acquire the technologies. For downloads, instructor provides direct links. Any costs are specified up-front.

6.5

Acceptable technological formats for assignment completion and submissions have been articulated.

Example: Rather than limiting the acceptable format to one content or technology type, instructor is open to allowing students to meet objectives using multiple formats for assignment completion such as word processing, electronic poster creation, multimedia artifact, or combination of these.
Section 7. Learner Support and Resources

Addresses the program, academic, and/or technical resources available to learners. Though instructors may not play the direct support role, they should be aware of potential issues and promote what is available to support students.

7.1
Instructor states her or his role in the support process.

Example: Though some of the support necessary may fall outside of the instructor role or expertise, instructors can advocate for students to avail themselves of related support services.

7.2 (Core 24 REQUIRED)
The course syllabus (or related) lists and/or links to a clear explanation of the technical support provided by the campus and suggestions as to when and how students should access it.

Example: Technical support may mean the Information Technology (IT) help desk where students would seek assistance when they have technical problems with the Learning Management System.

7.3 (Core 24 REQUIRED)
Course syllabus (or related) provides an introduction to campus academic (non-technical) support services and resources available to support students in achieving their educational goals. E.g., Disability Support Services, Writing Center, Tutoring Center.

Example: Academic support services may include but not limited to the Library, writing center, online tutoring service. Resources may include online orientation for new students, successful learning strategies for online learners, Lynda.com training videos.

7.4
Course syllabus (or related) provides information regarding how the institution's student support (non-academic, non-technical) services and resources (E.g., advising, mentoring) can help students succeed and how they can these services

Example: Such services usually include but not limited to online registration, advising and counseling.
Section 8. Accessibility and Universal Design

Addresses the course’s adherence to accessibility and universal design principles that are critical to some learners but that benefit all learners. NOTE: We strongly recommend that instructors contact their campus disability service center for assistance and information related to this section.

8.1 (Core 24 REQUIRED)

Syllabus (or similar) links to the campus accessibility policy, whether or not it is required or recommended by the institution.

Example: SF State’s Disability Programs and Resource Center (DPRC) has developed a Disability Access Statement for course syllabi. (See question: Do you have a Disability Access Statement that I can add to my course syllabus?) In addition, the instructor can link students to the following URL for the DPRC: http://access.sfsu.edu/.

8.2

Instructor supports a range of learning styles and abilities for all students, rather than making reactive accommodations for those with registered disabilities.

Example: Using the principles of Universal Design for Learning, as described in EnACT’s UDL-Universe: A Comprehensive Faculty Development Guide or the National Center for Universal Design for Learning, the course supports a wide-range of methods to present and engage with content, and allows students to demonstrate their learning in multiple modalities.

This support does not entail sacrificing academic rigor or student learning outcomes. The goals are supporting the needs of all learners as opposed to having an inflexible teaching and learning process.

For example, students are given the option of presenting a final project in the form of a written essay, multimedia presentation, or a video. Course content is presented in written formats, as well as in video or audio.

8.3 (Core 24 REQUIRED)

A clear explanation of the support services offered by DPRC is provided and clear links to DPRC resources are provided.

Example: SF State’s Disability Programs and Resource Center (DPRC) has developed a Disability Access Statement for course syllabi. In addition, the instructor can link students to the following URL for the DPRC: http://access.sfsu.edu/content/students
8.4
Students can clearly ascertain the role of the instructor in providing support for those officially registered with the campus disability services office.

**Example:** The instructor provides students with a clear explanation of the instructor’s role in supporting students registered with DPRC. The instructor is familiar with DPRC resources, and cooperates with DPRC to comply with any accommodation request.

8.5 (Core 24 REQUIRED)
Course materials created by the instructor or from external sources are in formats that are accessible to students with disabilities.

**Example:** All text materials (readings, supplemental materials, worksheets, presentation notes, etc.) in the course must be available in a machine-readable digital text format and implement accessibility best practice. While most digital documents (Word documents, webpages, PDFs of journal articles, etc.) are already machine-readable, scans of printed texts or printed hardcopies of texts are generally NOT machine-readable. Instructors should coordinate with DPRC to assure that their text materials are machine-readable.

DPRC provides an [Accessible Media Quick Converter](http://www.dprc.sfsu.edu) that can be used to quickly convert electronic document files, such as PDF scans of text, into accessible formats. DPRC also provides guidelines and best practices for [creating accessible documents and web content](http://www.dprc.sfsu.edu).

It is not required that all video (lecture recordings, films, online videos, etc.) be captioned, have audio descriptions, or include a downloadable transcript file, but instructors should give preference to videos with captions, audio descriptions, or transcripts when it is feasible.

Captions, audio descriptions, or transcripts are REQUIRED only in two cases:

1. A student registered with DPRC requires captions, audio descriptions, or transcripts as an accommodation. The instructor should cooperate with DPRC to provide these when instructed to by DPRC staff.

2. The instructor and course is part of CSU Coursematch. Then ALL videos MUST be captioned or include transcripts (audio descriptions are not required for Coursematch). Instructors should contact and coordinate with DPRC to provide captions or transcripts before the videos are accessed by students.

If accessibility of a particular course material is not practical, the instructor provides an equally effective accessible alternative for students. Instructors should collaborate with DPRC and Academic Technology to provide effective alternatives.
8.6

The instructor and course use officially supported campus technologies, which are already fully accessible and assistive technology ready. Any third-party tools used are accessible and assistive technology ready when feasible.

**Example:** Academic Technology supported tools such as iLearn are accessible as described on the [Accessible Technology Initiative webpage](#). DPRC or AT can assist in checking the accessibility of any third party tools. Email access@sfsu.edu for assistance.

It is not required that all third-party tools be fully accessible, but instructors should give preference to accessible tools when it is feasible.

Accessibility for third-party tools is REQUIRED in the following cases:

1. A student registered with DPRC requires an accommodation. The instructor should cooperate with DPRC to provide appropriate accommodations, when instructed to by DPRC staff.

2. The instructor and course is part of CSU Coursematch. Then ALL third-party tools MUST be accessible. Instructors should contact and coordinate with DPRC to assure third-party tools are accessible before the tools are accessed by students.

If accessibility of a particular third-party tool is not practical, the instructor provides an equally effective accessible alternative for students. Instructors should collaborate with DPRC and Academic Technology services to provide effective alternatives.
Section 9. Course Summary and Wrap-up

Addresses the opportunities students are given to summarize the semester, establish the connection between this course and other courses, and prepare to start the next phase of their program/progress.

9.1
Instructor provides students opportunities to ask questions as a form of closure and to foster insight into accomplishments.

**Example:** Instructor uses discussion threads to ask students (1) if they have any questions and (2) to reflect on their progress toward their learning objectives and outcomes.

9.2
Instructor provides students with feedback about their overall learning and progress and their experiences of the term.

**Example:** Instructor includes specific, summative feedback on student learning across the term (semester or quarter).

9.3
Instructor provides opportunities for students to reflect on their learning and connect their individual learning goals with the expectations (stated learning objectives and outcomes) of the instructor.

**Example:** Instructor asks students questions to compare what they can do now, having met the student learning objectives, with what they could do prior to taking the course.
Section 10. Mobile Platform Readiness

Addresses the accessibility of course content on mobile devices (phones & tablets). **Note**: Not all course components must be tailored toward mobile devices (e.g., online exams).

### 10.1 (OPTIONAL)

General course content on main page does not include pop-up screens, moving text, large images, or long headings/labels.

**Example**: Smaller images are used to convey essential information and allow content to load quickly on mobile devices. Text is clear and labels are short. Font is at least 14 pt.

When possible, content design should make components tap-able rather than just clickable with a mouse.

Images and text in main content body are kept to 600px in length or made to adjust automatically to width of viewer's screen. Images formats should be .jpg, .png, or .gif.

### 10.2 (OPTIONAL)

Audio and video content can be displayed easily on multiple platforms such as PCs, tablets, and mobile devices.

**Example**: Audio and video clips are short (under 15 minutes), in a mobile-friendly format such as MP3, MP4, or linked to YouTube. E.g., video resolution is kept to 480x320 for phones, 640x480 for tablets. Make sure presets for video allow use on mobile platforms.

### 10.3 (OPTIONAL)

Course should take into consideration and reduce the number of steps a user must take in order to reach primary content.

**Example**: Primary course content, activities, and assessments are only one or two clicks from landing page. Excessive scrolling is not required to view respective content.

### 10.4 (OPTIONAL)

Instructor limits amount of course content that does not contribute directly to student learning outcomes.

**Example**: If additional resources were provided as supplemental, they were placed at the end of the website with label (rather than within and/or clearly marked as such.)