Your Education, Your Schedule, Your Community: Fostering Student-to-Student Interactions in a Flex-Paced Online Program

Scott Wylie, Instructional Designer, CUH Center for Teaching and Learning
Jim Heller Sutton, Director, CUH Center for Teaching and Learning
James Balicao, Assistant Director, Chaminade Online
CUH Flex

You work during the day. You have family obligations. Your schedule is packed. Our online bachelor’s degree offerings have all the rigor and support of our traditional undergraduate program but allows you the freedom to go at your own pace—take in lectures, participate in course discussions and complete classwork at night, on weekends or whenever you can fit them into your day.

Tailored for working adults, Chaminade's Flex Program allows you to move at your own pace. **New terms start monthly. Finish a course and take advance to the next one quickly. If you need additional time to finish a course, take it!**

**New terms start monthly**  
**One-on-one support**  
**WSCUC Accredited**
CUH Flex

How do we avoid this... And encourage this...
Small Group Discussion

How do we ensure meaningful and timely student-to-student contact when students are not working at a flexible pace?

Parameters
• All classes are asynchronous.
• Class start monthly.
• Students work at their own pace (6w to 6m).

Collaboration Tools
• Canvas Discussions
• Blogs
• Padlet / Flipgrid / etc.
• Social Media
Our Solution

Communities of Practice

- Private group for each major
- Students discuss current issues in their field, bringing in examples from their courses
- Discussions are moderated by faculty and alumni
Course Assignment for CoP Participation

Assignment Overview

As part of our course requirements, you will engage in the Chaminade University Communities of Practice. Each week, the moderators of those communities will post discussion questions, share news articles, or post their thoughts on current events related to our field.

Use the following link to sign up for Workplace using your CUH email address. (Note: You must use your CUH email address to sign up.)

- [https://chaminadeu.workplace.com/](https://chaminadeu.workplace.com/)

The purpose of these communities is to provide you with a space to join in discussion with fellow students, faculty, and Chaminade alumni. Please refer to this user guide for instructions on how to post and respond to content. You can participate by commenting on their posts or by sharing your own relevant materials.

In order to earn credit for this assignment, your participation must include a hashtag for this course (#ED4905). Please submit the following information:

1. One or more screenshots demonstrating significant, meaningful participation in at least one of the communities of practice. Please note: multiple screenshots may be required to capture your participation, but please do not upload more than five images.

2. A short reflection highlighting how your coursework at Chaminade informed your participation in the discussion. Please note: the connection to your coursework does not need to come from this class; you are free to draw on all the courses you have taken at Chaminade when crafting this reflection.
Discussion

• Act as a “critical friend”...
• What challenges do you foresee with this approach?
• How might students benefit from this approach?
• What other ideas should we consider?
Mahalo!
Evaluate Sessions and Win!

- Navigate to specific session to evaluate
- Select “Evaluate Session” on session details screen
  - Complete session evaluation*

*Each session evaluation completed (limited to one per person per session) = one contest entry. **Five (5) $25 gift cards** will be awarded