



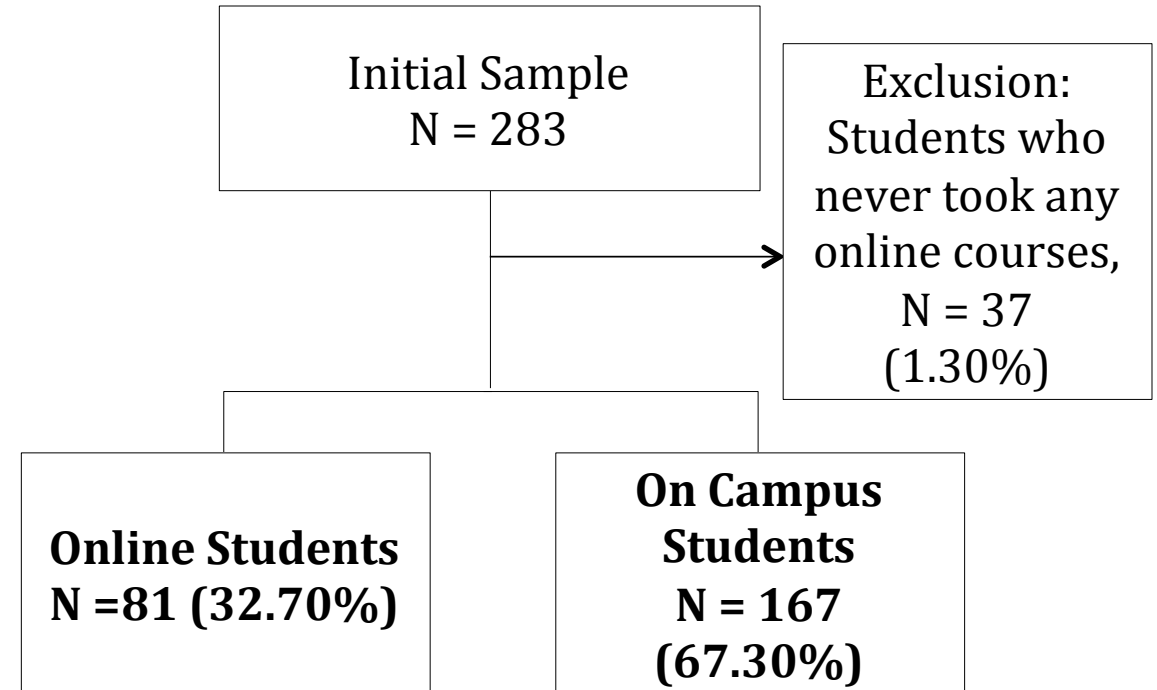
# Why this study?

- Critical to the Col Model are cognitive, teaching and social presences, which are measured by the Col Survey (Swan, 2013). Some in the field of on-ground and online teaching and learning, emphasize the importance of interpersonal relationships.
- Research questions:
  - Does a relationship exist between social, cognitive and teaching presences and empathy, genuineness and high regard?
  - Do perceived differences in empathy, genuineness and high regard exist between on-ground and online students?



# Method

- Measurements: Barrett-Lennard Relationship Inventory & Community Inquiry Questionnaire (Col)
- Sample collection: Students age 18 and older are eligible to participate. The participants took an online survey through the University of Illinois WebTools Online Survey Site.





# Results

Table 1. Correlation Matrix – Barrett-Lennard Relationship Inventory & Class Engagement ( $n=248$ )

	1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Empathy	-					
2. Genuineness/Congruence	.68***	-				
3. Level of Regard	.89***	.68***	-			
4. Teaching Presence	.52***	.33***	.25***	-		
5. Social Presence	.49***	.31***	.47***	.60***	-	
6. Cognitive Presence	.50***	.28***	.47***	.70***	.66***	-
Mean	4.23	3.82	4.38	5.21	3.37	4.77
Standard Deviation	10.00	8.04	10.75	9.04	6.34	7.97

\* $p < .05$ . \*\* $p < .01$ . \*\*\* $p < .001$ .



# Results (cont.)

Table 2. Results from independent *t*-tests between empathy, genuineness, high regard and admission status

	Online students ( <i>n</i> =81)		On-ground students ( <i>n</i> =167)		<i>t</i>
	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	
Empathy	4.24	9.55	4.22	10.94	0.69
Genuineness/Congruence	3.82	7.88	3.84	8.42	0.86
Level of Regard	4.42	10.65	4.36	11.00	0.83

\**p* < .05. \*\**p* < .01. \*\*\**p* < .001.



# What are your thoughts?

→ Of the three relationship conditions, empathy was moderately correlated to all three presences (teaching, social and cognitive).

These findings support classroom design using the Col Model include interpersonal interaction or relationship between the teacher and the students.

→ Online students and on-ground students perceived no significant differences with regard to empathy, genuineness and level of regard in their respective classes.

The finding that no differences between online and on-ground students exists with regard to empathy, congruence and high regard supports the contention online classes can be as interpersonally interactive as on-ground classes.