

601c Online Student Verification

Dixie State University is required to verify that each student enrolled in an online course is the same student who participates in and completes the course. The university complies with federal regulation outlined in the *Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), in 2018-2019, related to Distance Education and Innovation*. The specific language regarding this regulation is below.

“The institution has in place effective procedures through which to ensure that the student who registers in a distance education course or program is the same student who participates in and completes the course or program and receives the academic credit. The institution makes clear in writing that these processes protect student privacy and notifies students at the time of registration or enrollment of any projected additional costs associated with the verification procedures.” (State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements Manual, 2020)

A variety of authentication measures should be used with a minimum of two methods implemented into every online DSU course. A sample of methods are outlined below.

Ungraded Survey: Surveys could be implemented within the first course module and used as an agreement that outlines expectations and requires students to click either “agree” or “disagree.” Surveys may also be used at the end of the course to validate and confirm that the work completed was completed by the student enrolled in the course.

Videos: Videos, two minutes or less, created by the student and showing the student’s face can be cross-checked with the student identification photo in MyDixie.

- Introduction videos as well as midterm and/or final reflection videos
- Video presentations
- Video responses in quizzes/tests
- Video posts or replies in discussions

Synchronous Activities: Synchronous activities provide opportunities for the instructor to verify student identification through live discussion. It is recommended that roll/attendance is taken.

Lockdown Browser and Video Analytics: Proctored systems provide a custom browser that locks down the testing environment while utilizing the student’s webcam and video analytics to prevent cheating. The webcam video displays the student’s face that can then be cross-checked with the student identification photo in MyDixie. Common lockdown browsers are listed below:

- Proctorio
- Respondus Lockdown Browser
- ProctorU

Biometrics of high-stake assessments: Biometric technology authenticates a person's identity based on physical characteristics. Students take real-time photos of their face using the student's webcam and then takes a picture of an approved ID (student ID card, driver's license, etc.) for comparison.

Policy Owner: Vice President of Academic Affairs/Provost

Policy Steward: Faculty Senate

History:

Approved: 04/29/22