
APPROACHES TO ATTENDANCE IN A POST- PANDEMIC ENVIRONMENT

DR. INGRID CARTER

MAY 3, 2024



WHY EXPLORE ATTENDANCE

- In our post-Covid context, both faculty and students have become more comfortable and accustomed to online learning, and many have seen the value of online teaching and learning
- The main course I teach, EDU 3550 Teaching Elementary School Science and Health, is now hybrid and there are many benefits to this modality (see Carter, Harrington, & Ahrend, 2024)¹.
- In a more flexible course format, the number of in-person class sessions can be fewer; in the case of EDU 3550, the in-person class sessions were selected with much thought and intentionality
- Other colleagues with whom I have spoken have shared wonderings about attendance, particularly when it comes to illness
- MSU Denver values its commitment to inclusion and accessibility, and our diverse student body is a huge asset of our institution
- Many of our students have complex lives and multiple responsibilities

¹Carter, I., Harrington, C., & Ahrendt, S. (2024). An examination of an inquiry-based hybrid online/in-person science methods course. *International Journal of Science Education*, DOI: 10.1080/09500693.2023.2300090

MY INQUIRY QUESTION: HOW CAN WE FOSTER INCLUSIVE ATTENDANCE POLICIES THAT ARE EQUITABLE ACROSS COURSE MODALITIES AND MAINTAIN HIGH EXPECTATIONS?

- Google Scholar: Attendance Policies in Higher Education (little current research found; did I want to take a scholarly approach?)
- Exploration of various websites, reading the material in-depth
 - Websites cited literature

The screenshot shows the Google Scholar interface with the search query "attendance policies in higher education". The results page displays four articles. The left sidebar contains filters for "Any time" (with sub-options: Since 2024, Since 2023, Since 2020, Custom range...), "Sort by relevance" (with sub-option: Sort by date), "Any type" (with sub-option: Review articles), and checkboxes for "include patents", "include citations" (checked), and "Create alert".

Articles About 1,670,000 results (0.04 sec)

Any time
Since 2024
Since 2023
Since 2020
Custom range...

Sort by relevance
Sort by date

Any type
Review articles

☐ include patents
☒ include citations
☒ Create alert

The surveillance of learning: A critical analysis of university attendance policies
B Macfarlane - *Higher Education Quarterly*, 2013 - Wiley Online Library
... strengthened their class **attendance policies** along with ... **policy** statements, the paper identifies implicit arguments underpinning **attendance** requirements for students in **higher education**...
☆ Save ⓘ Cite Cited by 94 Related articles All 8 versions

A case against compulsory class attendance policies in higher education
KL St. Clair - *Innovative Higher Education*, 1999 - Springer
... **attendance policies** have been instituted in **higher education** ... between class **attendance** or **attendance policies** and academic ... A case against compulsory **attendance policies** which is ...
☆ Save ⓘ Cite Cited by 201 Related articles All 11 versions

The effect of attendance on academic performance
R Guleker, J Keci - *Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences*, 2014 - CiteSeer
... in the light of the **attendance policy** enforced in today's Albanian **higher education** institutions. ... Student **attendance** is an important issue in today's **higher education**. Many universities ...
☆ Save ⓘ Cite Cited by 46 Related articles All 2 versions ⓘ

Higher education as "place": Location, race, and college attendance policies
MA Olivas - *The Review of Higher Education*, 2005 - muse.jhu.edu
... Brown and the many **higher education** cases leading to that ... " areas, whether college **policies** can be localized or tied to ... or whether the siting of **higher education** can trigger racial claims...
☆ Save ⓘ Cite Cited by 57 Related articles All 8 versions

Determinants of university students' attendance
E Moores, GK Birdi, HE Higson - *Educational Research*, 2019 - Taylor & Francis
... **attendance policies** and monitoring, timetabling and style of teaching. Implications for **policies**

Approaches to Attendance:

Creating an Equitable and Robust Attendance Policy

"By embracing a model of intellectual rigor in order to keep high expectations, we can re-design our classroom approaches to allow multiple means of demonstrating mastery of course content" (Ciancapelli & Adamo, 2023, paragraph 5).

ONE-PAGER

A Few Strategies...

Administer a pre-class survey	Gather information from students at the beginning of the semester to create a plan for absences and how to make up the learning that is missed.
Set clear expectations at the beginning of the semester	Outline in the syllabus your expectations for attendance—this will depend on the course modality and the frequency of in-person class sessions. Let students know what they will gain from attending class and what they will lose from not attending class.
Demonstrate on the first day to students <u>why</u> their attendance matters	Begin the class with interactive teaching strategies, learn students' names quickly, encourage rich discussion, and make connections to students' lives.
Share why the in-person modality is uniquely important for students' learning	Provide course-specific details about why the in-person sessions are valuable—for example, live interactive discussions with the instructor and peers, hands-on learning opportunities, and access to unique resources and materials.
Use "freebies" or "tokens"	Allow students a set number of class sessions they can miss without question or penalty. Tokens can also be used for grading (see <i>Grading for Growth</i> by David Clark and Robert Talbert).

References

University of Connecticut, Center for Excellence Teaching and Learning. (n.d.). *Improving student attendance*.
<https://ctl.uconn.edu/resources/teaching-your-course/classroom-management/improving-student-attendance/>

Ciancapelli, B. & Adamo, P. (2023, March 24.). *Embracing inclusive approaches to attendance policies*. University of Denver, Office of Teaching and Learning. <https://otl.du.edu/embracing-inclusive-approaches-to-attendance-policies/>

University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Office of Teaching and Learning. (n.d.). *How do I provide flexibility and ensure attendance?* <https://www.umass.edu/ctl/how-do-i-provide-flexibility-and-ensure-attendance>



THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO PRESENT!

QUESTIONS?