

# Strategies for Supporting Students Unable to Attend Class Meetings

Each subsection below suggests a strategy and provides links to a few relevant resources.

## Structure the Canvas Course Shell to Support Both In-Person and Remote Learners

The most effective strategy for supporting students who must miss class, e.g., due to illness, quarantine requirement, etc., is one that will also benefit students who attend every class meeting *and* make teaching more efficient for you. This strategy is to structure your course materials in Canvas to provide optimum clarity, consistency, and prompts to engage in course activities. The time you invest at the beginning of the term will save you many hours as the semester progresses. Relevant resources:

- [Organize your Canvas Shell for Clarity & Transparency](#)
- [Using Weekly Game Plans to Promote Consistency](#)
- [Teaching Resources for All Delivery Modes](#)

## Leverage Lessons Learned

Draw on strategies learned in the earlier phases of the pandemic, from recording and sharing mini-lectures and holding virtual office hours to taking a flexible approach and supporting students to address increased needs for social and emotional support so they can keep learning. In addition, planning some virtual components in your face-to-face course ensures that students who must miss in-person sessions can still participate in elements of the course without any additional effort on your part. Relevant resources:

- [Leveraging Lessons Learned from Remote Instruction for Your Residential Classroom](#)
- [Recommendations for Flexibility within Teaching Modality](#)
- [Online Discussion: Best Practices – L. Ward](#)
- [Online Discussion: Student Feedback – L. Ward](#)

## Motivate Students and Build Community

Prepare students to continue learning, as their health permits, during periods when they must miss in-person class meetings. Help students understand the significance of what they're learning, not just for your course and/or their major, but also for their future professional, civic, and/or personal lives. Cultivating motivation from the beginning of the semester will help students stay engaged if/when they must miss class sessions. Building community in your classroom will do the same. Both motivating students and building community will encourage them to take responsibility for their own learning and stay engaged when they're physically absent. Relevant resources:

- [Instructional Strategies – Classroom Climate – J. Reinke](#)
- [Student Motivation with Chris Ritsema](#)