

# How to make sure **QUARANTEACHING** is not a disaster

Fall 2020 poses multiple challenges for making distance learning successful for nursing students. Here are some tips to help.

## **ENVIRONMENT MATTERS**

Students should be dressed, sitting upright at a computer, have their camera on and pointed at them (not the ceiling fan), and in communal spaces, not bedrooms.

## **AVOID AIRPODS**

The microphone often isn't strong enough. A better choice is plug-in earbuds with a microphone. (Anything is better than shouting into a laptop screen, though.)

## **ENCOURAGE ENGAGEMENT**

Tell students you will be calling on them (whether at random or with a prompt in advance). You can't make them listen, but you can make them wish they had.

## **START WITH A QUESTION**

Begin each class by asking a "check-in" question. Call on a few to answer verbally. Ask the rest to submit answers via the chat feature of your learning management system.

## **BE FLEXIBLE**

Nontraditional students may have children who are also learning from home, as well as financial and employment considerations. Keep these aspects in mind when scheduling whenever possible.

## **GET PERSONAL**

Try to avoid generic feedback. Personalize communication and responses and respond as quickly as possible. Students will feel involved and supported.

## **DON'T GIVE UP**

Education is always a work in progress. If something doesn't work, don't blame anyone (or cast the problem as a character flaw, whether yours or someone else's). Instead, simply try something different. Students will follow your lead.

