Quality Features in Online Courses

At Kent State University, Quality Online Courses are built with all the best things. The list below is provided as a reference guide to the recommended features/components that should be included in an online course to promote a quality online learning experience for students.

Please contact your local online learning support staff for details on how you can incorporate these features and components into your online course.

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| ***Feature/Component*** | ***Example of the kind of item(s) that support this feature/component*** |
| **Start Here Area/Course Intro/Course Orientation** | Syllabus, Intro Quiz, Course Orientation, Course Introduction Video, Getting Started, Course Expectations |
| **Easy Navigation** | Findability, Modular Organization, two-click navigation, removing excessive links and unused tools, consistency if part of a program (carousel, etc.) |
| **Comprehensive Support Information** | Tech Support options, Training, Tutorials, Academic Support Options, Student Accessibility Services, Other help options as needed |
| **Academic Rigor** | Clear assignment instructions, alignment to course learning outcomes, rubric-based grading, consistent assignment deadlines, anti-cheating measures for tests and quizzes, variety of assignments, varied content, using points vs. weighted grades for assignments |
| **Interaction** | Peer interaction, peer collaboration, assignments that promote interaction |
| **Instructor Presence** | Clear expectations from instructor, regular teacher presence in course, prompt feedback |
| **Smart Design** | Platform-free file types, clean visual design, adherence to UDL principles, consistency if part of a program (carousel, etc.), use of multimedia, use student feedback to improve future version of course |
| **Accessibility** | All course materials ADA compliant, captioned videos and multimedia, consistent text setup (using numbered lists vs. bullets, etc.) |