

Community of Inquiry

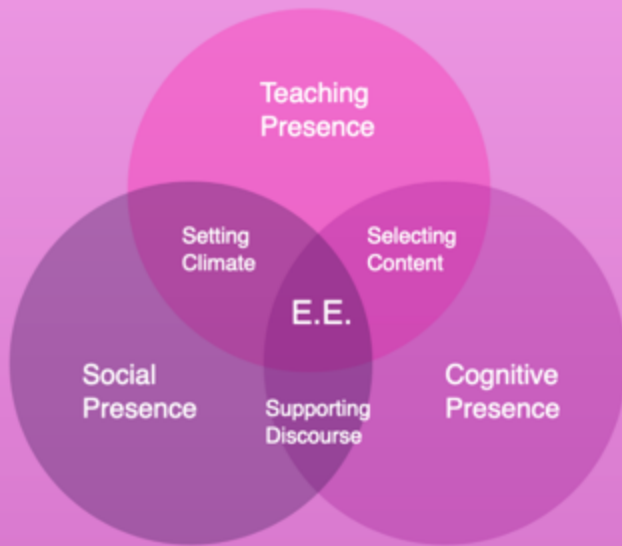
Application Strategies for Online Mental Health Courses

What is CoI?

Developed by Dewey and Peirce, Community of Inquiry (CoI) allow a group of learners to engage collaboratively through:

- Purposeful critical discourse
- Reflection
- Constructing personal meaning
- Confirming mutual understanding

CoI does this by breaking the Educational Experience (E.E.) into the following three presences, as well as the intersections between them:



Learning Benefits of Presences

- Teaching Presence represents the design, facilitation and direction of cognitive and social course aspects.
- Cognitive Presence represents how, through reflection and discussion, learners construct and confirm meaning of concepts.
- Social Presence represents the learners' ability to purposefully communicate and identify with the community, as well as the development of relationships.

Intersectional Learning Benefits

- Decisions regarding Teaching and Cognitive Presence help inform content selection, presentation and interaction.
- Social communication, identification with the community and interpersonal relationships supports discourse; Allows for sustained discussion and reflection regarding concepts and materials.
- Community establishment, the presence of facilitators, instructors and learners, sets the learning climate & how learners relate to/converse with each other

Applications in Online Mental Health Courses

When applied within the context of Mental Health Courses, especially combined in concert with an understanding of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, these various presences provide for a variety of mutually beneficial outcomes.

Teaching Presence

- Focus & deepen discussion through feedback and reflection prompts.
- Build understanding & increase accomplishment by adding personal meaning to activities.
- Define clear instructions and initiate discussions.

Cognitive Presence

- Begin each session or module with an event geared toward producing curiosity.
- Use multilevel prompts, avoiding known-answer questions, to promote reflection.
- Promote revisiting previous comments, conclusions and reflections.

Social Presence

- Moderated discussions and a risk-free environment provide safety & security.
- A safe environment encourages authenticity in community interactions, developing a sense of belonging.
- Teach learners how to use the spaces

References:

- CoI Framework, Athabasca University, <https://coi.athabascau.ca/coi-model/>
- McLoed, S., Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, <https://www.simplypsychology.org/maslow.html>
- Moore, M., Asynchronous Discussions, <https://oen.pressbooks.pub/resilientpedagogy/chapter/thinking-outside-the-pr-prompt-post-reply-box/>