

How to support students living in a different time zone

During this strange time, students are taking classes from all across the world. We have created a function in ICON where instructors would be able to view if their students are in a time zone outside of US Central. Here are some tips to help you support those students.

Reach out.

Reaching out to students is a way to show that you care about their success in your class.

After you identify the students with the ICON indicator send an email and make a plan that will help both of you to be on the same page.



Offer asynchronous options.

Students who are outside of the US might have to be up at night to take classes or exams. They might also have different holidays and commitments as they adjust to living with their families.

Try recording your lectures on Zoom and share with students. Be flexible about exam times and deadlines and understanding about their attendance.



Use inclusive language and assignments.

Ensure that your assignments aren't restricted to students who are taking classes in Iowa City. Some apps and websites could be unavailable in some countries, and avoid geographically specific assignments.



Familiarize yourself with resources on campus that could help your students succeed.

As instructors, students may need to lean on you to find the right resources, such as University Counseling Services or Academic Support and Retention.



Suggest creative solutions.

If students in a different time zone are struggling to complete an assignment or need extra support, take some time to think about how you can work together to creatively plan for the semester together and come up with effective alternatives.



Be appreciative of students' efforts

Students in different time zones are facing a lot of barriers and obstacles. Try to be thoughtful and appreciative of their efforts and success. It means a lot for them to receive validation and support in such trying times. Show them that you notice and value their work.

