Effective Communication Strategies
We have been focusing on strengthening the faculty “Online Presence” in our CHP courses. In online learning scenarios, we have been using the following:
- Video Announcements
- Video blurb within each module summarizing or recapping
- Video recap on discussion boards
- Firefox Hello as a meeting platform - Pros and Cons Discussion
- WebEx’s personal meeting room for discussion with students when off campus

Effective Teaching Strategies
In teaching first year CHP students in online and blended context, we have been using several tools within Blackboard to foster interactive learning:
- Discussion boards
- Online quizzes (both graded and non-graded),
- Narrated power point lectures
- Video clips demonstrating practical skills
- Assignment Manager with Safe Assign
- the Portfolio tool
- Exams via Blackboard.

Traditional vs Online Setting - Student Performance is Comparable
In an analysis comparing the average final grades between my course sections in traditionally- based classes (FA 14), a blended class (FA 14) and the winter term class (WI 15), there were no significant differences between the 5 sections. In addition, when looking at the distribution of grades in each section, a bell-shaped distribution is evident within each section. This suggests content is being disseminated equally and student performance is comparable in both traditionally based classrooms and those that utilize online learning tools.