

# 5 Steps to Humanize Course Design



1

## Prioritize Presence and Connection

- Create regular opportunities for live interaction (e.g., office hours, discussion groups, synchronous sessions)
- Use video, voice, and personalized feedback to humanize asynchronous learning
- Encourage peer-to-peer engagement through collaborative assignments or forums

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## Make Belonging a Design Principle

- Include inclusive language and diverse perspectives in course content
- Create spaces for students to share their experiences and identities
- Celebrate student contributions and progress publicly (e.g., shout-outs, badges, feedback)

2

## Design for Flexibility and Accessibility

- Offer multiple ways for students to participate (live, recorded, written, visual).
- Ensure course materials meet accessibility standards (e.g., captions, alt text, screen reader compatibility).
- Recognize that students may be balancing caregiving, work, or health challenges—design with empathy

5

## Support Faculty with Tools and Training

- Provide clear guidance on how to use LMS features to foster connection
- Offer professional development on relational teaching strategies and hybrid pedagogy
- Help faculty navigate multiple systems (LMS, SIS, courseware) with curated recommendations

3

## Use Data to Support Engagement

- Monitor LMS analytics to identify students who haven't logged in or completed key activities
- Use pulse surveys or check-ins to gauge student sentiment and motivation
- Reach out proactively to students who may need support or encouragement

