

**Distance Learning under the COVID-19 Pandemic and Active Learning**  
**—Based on the Standards for the Establishment of Universities, Media Class**  
**Notification, and the Notice March 24, 2020 of MEXT—**

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**Abstract**

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, so-called online distance learning (simultaneous interactive and on-demand (providing videos or other materials)) using the Internet has been conducted at universities. Since before the COVID-19 pandemic, 90 hours of study time is required for a 2-credit lecture or seminar according to the Standards for Establishment of Universities. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) has reaffirmed the necessity of securing study hours in distance learning. In addition, although media classes have traditionally been allowed in the Media Class Notification following the Standards for the Establishment of Universities, the MEXT notice dated March 24, 2020 and its Q&A confirmed the necessity of having educational effects equivalent to simultaneous interview classes. In such active learning in distance learning, it is important to provide opportunities for learning inside the classroom, assignments and question-and-answer sessions outside the classroom, and exchange of opinions among students, assuming that cyberspace is the "classroom". In this kind of active learning in distance learning, it is important to provide opportunities for learning in the classroom, assignments and question-and-answer sessions outside the classroom, and the exchange of opinions among students, assuming that cyberspace is the "classroom". In the future, even if the COVID-19 epidemic passes, it will be necessary to design curricula that can realize active learning and cultivate "the ability to continue learning throughout one's life and to think independently" by combining various teaching methods, including remote classes.

### **Keywords**

Distance Learning, Active Learning, Standards for the Establishment of Universities, Media Class Notification, "Notice Regarding the Start of Classes at Universities, etc., in the 2020 Academic Year" of MEXT

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