

The following guidance reflects the return of Title IV funds (R2T4) rules.

Regardless of whether the school is required to take attendance or not, "academic attendance" and "attendance at an academically-related activity" under [34 CFR 668.22\(l\)](#) must meet the definition of "academic engagement" under [34 CFR 600.2](#) as follows:

Active participation by a student in an instructional activity related to the student's course of study that is defined by the institution in accordance with any applicable requirements of its State or accrediting agency; and includes, but is not limited to:

- Attending asynchronous class, lecture, recitation, or field or laboratory activity, physically or online, where there is an opportunity for interaction between the instructor and students;
- Submitting an academic assignment;
- Taking an assessment or an exam;
- Participating in an interactive tutorial, webinar, or other interactive computer-assisted instruction;
- Participating in a study group, group project, or an online discussion that is assigned by the institution;
- Interacting with an instructor about academic matters.

The definition of academic engagement does not include activities where a student may be present, but not academically engaged, such as:

- Living in institutional housing;
- Participating in the school's meal plan;
- Logging into an online class or tutorial without any further participation;
- Participating in academic counseling or advising; or
- Participating in a student-organized study group.

The determination of academic engagement must be made by the institution in accordance with any state and/or accrediting agency requirements. A student's self-certification alone is not sufficient documentation of academic engagement it must be supported by institutional documentation of the student's attendance in the activity.

Reference the ED [Program Integrity Question and Answers](#) website.