

# STUDENTS ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM STUDYING ONLINE: TEACHER-TO-STUDENT INTERACTION

## WHAT IS THE AUTISM SPECTRUM?

The autism spectrum is a neurological variation which affects, among other things, the way an individual relates to his or her environment and their interaction with other people.



**40%**

**of students on the autism spectrum reported**

some level of difficulty when contacting their instructor when needed.

**66%**

**of students on the autism spectrum**

feel that interactions with the teacher are important to their online learning.

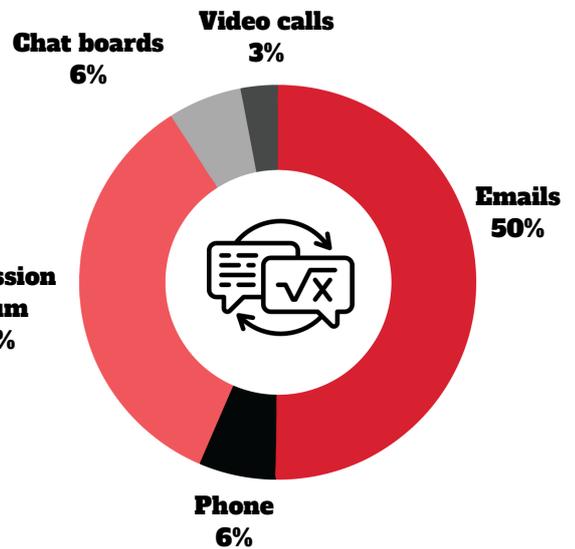
**Tip:** Ensure students are comfortable in being able to contact you. Set up ground rules for contact, such as 'office hours' and how long it will generally take you to reply to emails or messages.

### Helpful Stats

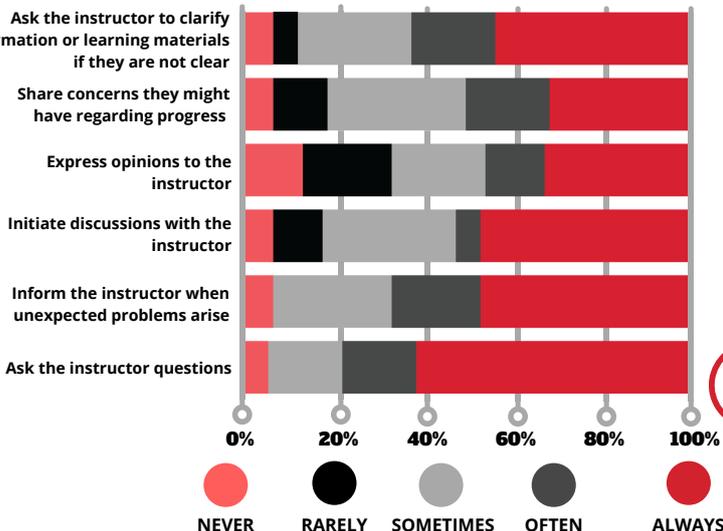
Students on the autism spectrum identified their preferred methods of communicating with their instructor.

**Over 70%**  
**of students on the autism spectrum felt**

that clarification of content by teachers aids their online learning. For example, comments on discussion boards, and responses to questions.



**When studying online students on the autism spectrum were able to:**



**80%**  
**of students on the autism spectrum find**  
it helpful when the teacher communicates links between the content across the weeks or the modules.

**Tip:** Throughout each module, in multiple places, clearly explain how course elements fit together while creating a coherent flow between content, activities, assessment and real world applications.