These indicators were developed based on quantitative and qualitative cross-institutional studies conducted by the DETA Research Center.

**Eight indicators**

- **Design**
  - specific and measurable learning objectives
  - alignment to assessments and learning activities
  - authentic, real-world experiences

- **Organization**
  - well-organized course
  - easy to navigate
  - logical and consistent format
  - alignment between topics and subtopics
  - manageable sections

- **Support**
  - manage students expectations
  - provide orientation to the course (purpose, format, and getting started)
  - illustrate alignment of objectives, assessments, and activities
  - clear instructions and directions
  - description of grading and assessment plan

- **Clarity**
  - reduce barriers to learning
  - provide clarity in the expectations of student activity (participation and performance)
  - include explanations, descriptions, standards, requirements, guidelines, and context

- **Instructor - interaction**
  - express interest in student learning
  - actively participate in online discussions
  - facilitate learning and peer interaction
  - expand students’ thoughts and knowledge
  - provide new prompts and additional content
  - provide timely and detailed feedback on assessments and student inquiries

- **Peer - interaction**
  - facilitate active learning through frequent and ongoing peer involvement and meaningful collaborative work
  - provide opportunities and technologies available for students to learn from each others

- **Content - interaction**
  - strategically enhance the student interaction with accessible and interactive content (preferably OER)
  - support dialogue, critical reflection and analysis, and real-world applications of the content
  - provide materials that are current, rich, and sufficient in breadth and depth
  - identify important topics and provide context

- **Richness**
  - provide richness in learning materials and activities, support and instructions, instructor interactions, and tools and media