# Overview

The Faculty of Education Online Peer Review criteria reflect the elements of effective learning environments identified in Garrison, Anderson & Archer’s (2000) ‘Community of Inquiry’ (CoI) model[[1]](#footnote-1) (Figure 1). The now well-validated CoI model “represents a process of creating a deep and meaningful (collaborative-constructivist) learning experience through the development of three interdependent elements – social, cognitive and teaching presence”. The review criteria are also informed by the literature on effective assessment practices and the role of feedback in teaching and learning (see for example Anderson & Krathwohl, 2001; Chickering & Ehrmann, 1996).

As the CoI model developers explain:

**Social presence** is “the ability of participants to identify with the community (e.g., course of study), communicate purposefully in a trusting environment, and develop inter-personal relationships by way of projecting their individual personalities.” (Garrison, 2009)

**Teaching Presence** is the design, facilitation, and direction of cognitive and social processes for the purpose of realizing personally meaningful and educationally worthwhile learning outcomes (Anderson, Rourke, Garrison, & Archer, 2001).

**Cognitive Presence** is the extent to which learners are able to construct and confirm meaning through sustained reflection and discourse (Garrison, Anderson, & Archer, 2001).

Figure 1. The community of inquiry model (from Garrison et al., 2000)

**Social, teaching and cognitive presences may be supported by both elements of course design and by instructional practice.**

This Peer Review Worksheet has two sections. Part A focuses on course content and design; Part B focusses on course instruction. For some reviews, only Part B will be relevant. The *Course and Instructor Overview* sheet completed by the instructor, as well as conversation with the instructor, will guide which sections are completed.

The criteria indicated in each section below are intended as a guide for reviewers. The list is not exhaustive, and not all courses will call for evaluation of all items.

1. <https://coi.athabascau.ca/coi-model/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)