Instructional Technology Services Factsheet

Your Teaching Resource for Making Technology Work for You

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- **Reliable, centralized teaching tools that fit your curriculum**

- **Technical support for instructional systems, software, and devices**

- **No-cost training with hands-on instruction**

- **In-person consultations at our offices or yours**

- **Customized group training**

Instructional Technology Services provides professional development opportunities for using technology to enhance teaching and learning; administers face-to-face, online, hybrid, and distance education teaching resources; and shares expertise in implementing pedagogical best practices at Texas A&M University.

Our group is responsible for administering, maintaining, and developing university-wide systems, services, and training to support Texas A&M's online learning infrastructure. These responsibilities range from managing the centralized eCampus learning management system (Blackboard Learn) to distributing software resources, such as Turnitin and Respondus. All our services are provided at no cost to instructors and staff.

We conduct a full range of help and training that complements various learning styles and fosters effective course design. We share best practices in course management, instructional design, multimedia applications, and technology concepts.

Our state-of-the-art classroom—complete with 18 workstations, wireless access, and audio/visual devices for videoconferencing—is where we hold most of our hands-on training sessions. We can also schedule customized professional development for groups at your facilities and at a time that's convenient for you.

In addition, we provide information about other types of technology resources that are available at the university beyond what we directly support. Therefore, we serve the Texas A&M teaching community as a facilitator and advocate of instructional technology initiatives.

We welcome your questions and ideas about how to best integrate instructional technology in your course. We encourage you to make an in-person consultation appointment to ensure that necessary resources, materials, and personnel are available to assist you when you arrive.

Supported Systems & Software

Providing Help and Training to Elevate Your Teaching

eCampus

eCampus, powered by Blackboard Learn, is the university-wide learning management system for uploading syllabi, managing grades, and teaching courses either partially or completely online. eCampus is a secure, centralized system and features a Grade Center, assignments, quizzes and surveys, chat rooms, discussions, blogs, wikis, email, and content management tools. Mid-term and final grades can also be submitted directly to Howdy from within the eCampus Grade Center.

eCampus Tools

eCampus Tools provides self-service options for both course management and member management for eCampus courses. Instructors of Record can request, combine, and manage eCampus courses based on sections from Compass, including individual, cross-listed, or stacked sections.

Camtasia Studio, Relay & Snagit

TechSmith **Camtasia Studio** records onscreen computer activity, PowerPoint presentations, voiceovers, webcam video, and any additional actions performed on a computer. It also enables adding audio annotations, inserting various types of visual callouts, and further editing of presentations. The resulting "screencast" can be saved in various formats and sizes for online delivery. **Relay** is a server-based lecture capture system for uploading, encoding, and exporting computer screen recordings for viewing on a computer or just about any mobile device. **Snagit** takes screenshots of a computer screen—the entire desktop, windows, regions, and even long, scrolling pages. Screen captures can be edited, labeled, and exported for use in other applications.

Collaborate

Blackboard Collaborate is a robust webconferencing system that works seamlessly with eCampus to conduct online, interactive instruction and meetings of all types and sizes. The new Ultra version features simple, intuitive deployment with nothing additional to install, so participants can get connected quickly. It also delivers high-quality HD audio and video along with a thoroughly redesigned and streamlined user interface with an optional "follow the speaker" layout. Deliver presentations, moderate breakout groups and chat, share applications, and record meetings for later viewing.

Examity

Examity is the centrally supported, university-wide assessment security and online proctoring service. Examity authenticates students for assessments, helps prevent academic dishonesty, and helps protect assessments from being copied and shared.

Google Apps at Texas A&M

Google Apps at Texas A&M provides a suite of web-based, integrated communication and collaboration tools. Included are Texas A&M Gmail (the official email system for students), Calendar, Drive, Groups, Sites, and Hangouts.

Lynda.com

Lynda.com is an online learning resource that provides thousands of computer-based training videos covering a wide variety of topics. Instructional videos include software, business, management, technology, and creative and technical skills. The on-demand videos are expert-led and can be watched at any time. You can link directly to Lynda.com content in eCampus.

MediaMatrix

MediaMatrix allows users to upload audio and video files to create customized collections of educational streaming media exclusively for students or other viewing audiences. Access can be limited to specific sets of users based on course enrollment using NetIDs and may even make non-copyright material available to the public. The system supports a variety of media formats.

Peerceptiv

Peerceptiv is a cloud-based, double-blind, student peer-to-peer assessment system that integrates with eCampus.

Respondus

Respondus enables the creation and management of printed and online exams. Instructors can create exams directly within Respondus, import existing exams from word processor files, or draw from publisher test banks.

Student Response Systems ("Clickers")

Clickers are instructional devices that can help engage students in classroom discussion topics. **i>clicker** is the standardized and centrally supported vendor for Texas A&M and integrates with eCampus to record results to the Grade Center. These systems are available in all of the 130+ registrar-controlled classrooms with permanent classroom instructional technology equipment.

Turnitin

Turnitin is an online database system designed to help instructors detect plagiarism, track citations, facilitate peer reviews, and provide paperless grading markup in written assignments. Students can submit papers directly from eCampus or instructors can use Turnitin.com's web-based service, if preferred.