

Students and Information Technology in Higher Education: 2006 Survey Questionnaire

Thank you for your willingness to answer this survey, which focuses on your experiences with and opinions about information technology. The information you and other undergraduate students provide will be reported in a national study that will be available to higher education institutions. We will also make available to your school's leaders data that you and your classmates give us about your school. The primary goal of the study is to better understand student experiences with information technology, which, in turn, can help your school's leadership to respond to your IT needs.

Your answers are confidential, and neither your school nor the EDUCAUSE Center for Applied Research will be able to identify you.

For the purposes of this survey, information technology refers to "personal electronic devices such as laptops and handheld computers, smart phones, and your institution's computers and associated devices."

Please submit your survey responses as soon as possible within the next two weeks. It should take you approximately 15 minutes to complete the survey. As thanks for your time and valuable input, each participant who provides an e-mail address will be entered in a drawing for one of approximately 30 \$50 gift certificates and one of 50 \$100 gift certificates for Amazon.com.

You may print a blank copy of the survey, if you'd like, before completing it by clicking "Printable version of the survey" in the header. To print your responses after completing the survey, select the "Review" button at the end of the survey.

We appreciate your time and participation. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the campus representative specified in the e-mail you were sent.

Click the "Next" button to begin the survey. Once again, thank you for your assistance!

Section 1.

We may only survey students age 18 or older.

1.1 I am 18 years old or older. <Required>

{ } No <Proceed to Section 5>

{ } Yes <Proceed to 1.2>

I give my consent to the following:

For this survey you were selected at random from a list of freshmen and seniors at your institution. We ask that you read this form and ask any questions you may have before agreeing to be in the study.

Sponsored by the EDUCAUSE Center for Applied Research, this study is being conducted by Dr. Robert Kvavik of the University of Minnesota and Judy Caruso of the University of Wisconsin–Madison. EDUCAUSE is a nonprofit association whose members include information technology leaders in higher education. Its mission is to advance higher education by promoting the intelligent use of information technology.

Background Information

If you agree to be in this study, please complete and submit the following survey. The survey asks for basic background information and questions you about:

- What kinds of information technologies you use and how often.
- What your level of skill is at using different information technologies.
- How these technologies contribute to your undergraduate experience.
- What value information technologies provide in teaching and learning in higher education.

It will take about 15 minutes to complete the survey. Please answer the questions to the best of your ability. There is no right or wrong answer. You only need to fill out the survey once.

Risks and Benefits of Being in the Study

There are no physical, psychological, social, or medical risks associated with your participation in this study. The benefit of your participation is to inform school officials of the benefits of their technology investments for students.

Compensation

We will hold a raffle for gift certificates of \$50 and \$100 from Amazon.com for participating in this survey. If you choose to participate in the raffle, you must include an e-mail address in the space provided at the beginning of the survey. Once the survey has closed, we will conduct a random drawing from the e-mail addresses of those who participated within two weeks of the closing of the survey. Based upon last year's response rate, your chance of winning is estimated to be approximately 1 in 250.

Your e-mail address will be kept separate from the data collected in the survey. It will not be used to connect your survey responses with your name, nor will it be used for any purpose other than to contact you should you win a prize.

Confidentiality

The records of this study will be kept private. In any report we might publish, we will not include any information that will make it possible to identify a subject. Research records will be stored securely.

Voluntary Nature of the Study

Participation in this study is voluntary. Your decision about whether to participate will not affect your current or future relations with your institution, with any of the institutions participating in this survey, or with EDUCAUSE. If you decide to participate, you are free not to answer any non-required question or withdraw at any time without affecting those relationships.

Contacts and Questions

You may direct any questions to the researchers conducting this study, Robert Kvavik, 612-625-2400, kvavik@umn.edu, and Judy Caruso, 608-263-7318, judy.caruso@doit.wisc.edu, or to a representative of your institution's Institutional Review Board.

If you wish to print a copy of the survey before completing it online, a PDF version is available from the link in the online survey header. Once you complete and submit the survey by clicking the Finish button, a summary of your responses will be displayed with the option to print and/or save them.

Statement of Consent

1.2 I have read the above information and have had the opportunity to ask questions and receive answers. I consent to participate in the study. <Required>

No <Proceed to Section 5>

Yes <Proceed to next question>

1.3 If you are interested in entering the drawing for gift certificates, please enter your e-mail address <Optional>. _____

Section 2. Your Use of Electronic Devices

2.1 How old is your personal desktop computer? <Drop-down list including less than 1 year, 1 to 10 years (increments of 1), More than 10 years, and Don't own>

2.2 How old is your personal laptop computer? <Drop-down list including less than 1 year, 1 to 10 years (increments of 1), More than 10 years, and Don't own>

2.3_2.8 Which of the following electronic devices do you own?

	No	Yes
2.3 Personal digital assistant (PDA) (Palm, etc.)		
2.4 Smart phone (combination cell phone and PDA device) (Blackberry, etc.)		
2.5 Electronic music/video device (iPod, etc.)		
2.6 Digital camera		
2.7 Electronic game device (Game Boy, Xbox, etc.)		
2.8 Wireless hub		

2.9 How many active e-mail accounts do you maintain?
<Drop-down list including 1 to 10 (increments of 1), More than 10>

2.10 Which e-mail account is your preferred e-mail account?

- University account
- Other account

2.11 If your institution could communicate with you in any form, what would your first choice be?

- Instant messaging
- E-mail
- Text messaging
- Personally authenticated Web site (portal)
- Paper mail
- No preference

2.12 Excluding your use of cell phones, how many hours each week do you normally spend using an electronic device (computer, PDA, etc.) for school, work, and recreation?

<Drop-down list including Less than one, 1-168 (increments of 1)>

2.13 How often do you use an electronic device for course activities?

- Never
- Once per year
- Once per semester/quarter
- Monthly
- Weekly
- Several times per week
- Daily

2.14 How often do you use an electronic device to access a library resource on an official college or university library Web site?

- Never
- Once per year
- Once per semester/quarter
- Monthly
- Weekly
- Several times per week
- Daily

2.15 How often do you use an electronic device as an in-class requirement?

- Never
- Once per year
- Once per semester/quarter
- Monthly
- Weekly
- Several times per week
- Daily

2.16 How often do you use an electronic device for writing documents for your coursework?

- Never
- Once per year
- Once per semester/quarter
- Monthly
- Weekly
- Several times per week
- Daily

2.17 How often do you create, read, and send e-mail?

- Never
- Once per year
- Once per semester/quarter
- Monthly
- Weekly
- Several times per week
- Daily

2.18 How often do you create, read, and send instant messages?

- Never
- Once per year
- Once per semester/quarter
- Monthly
- Weekly
- Several times per week
- Daily

2.19 How often do you play computer games?

- Never
- Once per year
- Once per semester/quarter
- Monthly

- Weekly
- Several times per week
- Daily

2.20 How often do you download Web-based music or videos?

- Never
- Once per year
- Once per semester/quarter
- Monthly
- Weekly
- Several times per week
- Daily

2.21 How often are you doing online shopping?

- Never
- Once per year
- Once per semester/quarter
- Monthly
- Weekly
- Several times per week
- Daily

2.22 How often are you doing online gaming (partypoker.com, etc.)?

- Never
- Once per year
- Once per semester/quarter
- Monthly
- Weekly
- Several times per week
- Daily

2.23 How often are you blogging?

- Never
- Once per year
- Once per semester/quarter
- Monthly
- Weekly
- Several times per week
- Daily

2.24 How often do you participate in online social networks (thefacebook.com, friendster.com, etc.)?

- Never
- Once per year
- Once per semester/quarter
- Monthly
- Weekly
- Several times per week
- Daily

2.25 How often do you use an electronic device for creating spreadsheets or charts (Excel, etc.)?

- Never
- Once per year
- Once per semester/quarter
- Monthly
- Weekly
- Several times per week
- Daily

2.26 How often do you use an electronic device for creating presentations (PowerPoint, Keynote, etc.)?

- Never
- Once per year
- Once per semester/quarter
- Monthly
- Weekly
- Several times per week
- Daily

2.27 How often do you use an electronic device for creating graphics (Photoshop, Flash, etc.)?

- Never
- Once per year
- Once per semester/quarter
- Monthly
- Weekly
- Several times per week
- Daily

2.28 How often do you create audio/video (Director, iMovie, etc.)?

- Never
- Once per year
- Once per semester/quarter
- Monthly
- Weekly
- Several times per week
- Daily

2.29 How often do you create Web pages (Dreamweaver, FrontPage, etc.)?

- Never
- Once per year
- Once per semester/quarter
- Monthly
- Weekly
- Several times per week
- Daily

2.30 How often do you access a course management system (ANGEL, EEE, WebCT, Blackboard, Desire2Learn, FirstClass, Moodle, Sakai, OnCourse, etc.)?

- Never
- Once per year
- Once per semester/quarter

- { } Monthly
- { } Weekly
- { } Several times per week
- { } Daily

2.31_2.35 Which of the following software have you purchased for your own use?

	No	Yes
2.31 Spreadsheets (Excel, etc.)		
2.32 Presentation software (PowerPoint, etc.)		
2.33 Graphics (Photoshop, Flash, etc.)		
2.34 Video/audio (Director, iMovie, etc.)		
2.35 Web pages (Dreamweaver, FrontPage, etc.)		

2.36_2.44 What is your skill level using the following computer technologies and applications?

<Minimal=very little use of basic features; Basic=some use of basic features; Conversant=full use of basic features but not advanced features; Accomplished=full use of basic features and many of the advanced features; Fluent=ability to use advanced features with ease>

	Minimal	Basic	Conversant	Accomplished	Fluent	Do not use
2.36 Spreadsheets (Excel, etc.)						
2.37 Presentation software (PowerPoint, etc.)						
2.38 Graphics (Photoshop, Flash, etc.)						
2.39 Video/audio (Director, iMovie, etc.)						
2.40 Web pages (Dreamweaver, FrontPage, etc.)						
2.41 Online library resources						
2.42 Computer maintenance (downloading software updates, installing additional memory, organizing files, etc.)						
2.43 Computer security (firewalls, antivirus software, etc.)						

2.44 Course management system (ANGEL, WebCT, EEE, Blackboard, Desire2Learn, FirstClass, Moodle, Sakai, OnCourse, etc.)						
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2.45 Why did you learn spreadsheet software (Excel, etc.)?

- Improve my course performance
- Course or major requirement
- Campus requirement
- Required for student organization activities
- Personal interest
- Job requirement
- To enhance future job opportunities
- Other
- Do not use

2.46 Why did you learn presentation software (PowerPoint, Keynote, etc.)?

- Improve my course performance
- Course or major requirement
- Campus requirement
- Required for student organization activities
- Personal interest
- Job requirement
- To enhance future job opportunities
- Other
- Do not use

2.47 Why did you learn graphics software (Photoshop, Flash, etc.)?

- Improve my course performance
- Course or major requirement
- Campus requirement
- Required for student organization activities
- Personal interest
- Job requirement
- To enhance future job opportunities
- Other
- Do not use

2.48 Why did you learn video/audio software (Director, iMovie, etc.)?

- Improve my course performance
- Course or major requirement
- Campus requirement
- Required for student organization activities
- Personal interest
- Job requirement
- To enhance future job opportunities
- Other
- Do not use

2.49 Why did you learn Web page creation software (Dreamweaver, FrontPage, etc.)?

- Improve my course performance
- Course or major requirement
- Campus requirement
- Required for student organization activities
- Personal interest
- Job requirement
- To enhance future job opportunities
- Other
- Do not use

2.50 During the academic year, what is your most frequently used method for access to the Internet?

- Commercial dial-up modem service (AOL, EarthLink, etc.)
- College- or university-operated dial-up modem service
- Commercial broadband service (DSL modem, cable modem, etc.)
- College- or university-operated wired broadband service
- Commercial wireless network
- College- or university-operated wireless network

2.51_2.61 If additional monies were available to improve computing services at your institution, select the top 3 items you would like it spent on. <Select up to 3>

- 2.51 Student IT training
- 2.52 Faculty IT training
- 2.53 Computer labs
- 2.54 Software required for courses (spreadsheets, PowerPoint, etc.)
- 2.55 Help desk
- 2.56 Network speed
- 2.57 Network availability
- 2.58 IT security (virus software, spam filtering, etc.)
- 2.59 Printing
- 2.60 Music (Napster subscription, etc.)
- 2.61 Other

Section 3. Your Use of Technology in Courses

3.1 Which of the following best describes your preference with regard to the use of technology in your courses?

- I prefer taking courses that use *no* information technology.
- I prefer taking courses that use *limited* technology.
- I prefer taking courses that use a *moderate* level of technology.
- I prefer taking courses that use technology *extensively*.
- I prefer taking courses that use technology *exclusively*.

3.2_3.18 Are any of the following technologies used in your courses during the current semester or quarter?

	Not using this semester/quarter	Using this semester/quarter
3.2 E-mail		
3.3 Instant messaging		
3.4 Presentation software (PowerPoint, Keynote, etc.)		
3.5 Course management system (ANGEL, EEE, WebCT, Blackboard, Desire2Learn, Moodle, Sakai, OnCourse, FirstClass, etc.)		
3.6 Course Web site		
3.7 Clickers (student response systems)		
3.8 Simulations		
3.9 Online discussions		
3.10 Online quizzes or tests		
3.11 Online gradebook		
3.12 Podcast		
3.13 Webcast		
3.14 Blogs		
3.15 Social networking software (thefacebook.com, etc.)		
3.16 E-portfolios		
3.17 Spreadsheets (Excel, etc.)		
3.18 Discipline-specific technologies (Mathmatica, Matlab, AutoCAD, Stella, etc.)		

3.19_3.21 Please give us your opinion about the following statements regarding your experiences with IT in your courses.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
3.19 I am more engaged in courses that require me to use technology than in courses that do not use technology.					
3.20 Overall, my instructors use information technology well in my courses.					
3.21 My school needs to give me more training on the information technology that I am required to use in my courses.					

3.22_3.25 The use of information technology in my courses:

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
3.22 Helps me better communicate and collaborate with my classmates than in courses that do not use technology.					
3.23 Results in more prompt feedback from my instructor than in courses that do not use technology.					
3.24 Allows me to take greater control of my course activities than in courses that do not use technology.					
3.25 Helps me do better research for my courses than in courses that do not use technology.					

3.26 Have you ever taken a course that used a course management system (e.g., ANGEL, EEE, WebCT, Blackboard, Desire2Learn, Moodle, Sakai, OnCourse, or FirstClass)? <Required>

- { } No <Proceed to 3.37>
- { } Yes <Proceed to 3.27>
- { } Don't know <Proceed to 3.37>

3.27 How would you describe your own overall experience using a course management system?

- Very negative
- Negative
- Neutral
- Positive
- Very positive

3.28_3.36 How useful did you find the following course management system features?

	Not useful	Somewhat useful	Useful	Very useful	Extremely useful	Did not use
3.28 Syllabus						
3.29 Online readings and links to other text-based course materials						
3.30 Online discussion board (posting comments, questions, and responses)						
3.31 Access to sample exams and quizzes for learning purposes						
3.32 Taking exams and quizzes online for grading purposes						
3.33 Turning in assignments online						
3.34 Getting assignments back from instructors with comments and grades						
3.35 Sharing materials among students						
3.36 Keeping track of grades on assignments and tests						

3.37_3.38 Which of the following benefits from using information technology in your courses was the most valuable to you?

- Improved my learning

- Convenience
- Helped me manage my course activities (planning, apportioning time, noting success and failure, etc.)
- Helped me communicate with my classmates and instructors
- No benefits
- Other

3.38 Please describe _____

3.39 The use of information technology in my courses has improved my learning.

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree

3.40 How often do you bring your laptop to class?

- Never
- Once per year
- Once per semester/quarter
- Monthly
- Weekly
- Several times per week
- Daily

3.41 Is bringing your laptop to class a requirement in any of your courses?

- No
- Yes

3.42 Which of the following best describes you?

- I love new technologies and am among the first to experiment with and use them.
- I like new technologies and use them before most people I know.
- I usually use new technologies when most people I know do.
- I am usually one of the last people I know to use new technologies.
- I am skeptical of new technologies and use them only when I have to.

Section 4. Information About You

4.1 What is your gender?

- Male
- Female

4.2 What is your age?

<Drop down menu with ages from 18 to 99 >

4.3 What is your cumulative grade point average (GPA)?

- Under 2.00
- 2.00–2.24
- 2.25–2.49
- 2.50–2.99
- 3.00–3.24
- 3.25–3.49
- 3.50–3.74
- 3.75–4.00
- Don't know

4.4 Are you a senior or a freshman?

- Senior
- Freshman
- Other

4.5 If you are a student at a community college, what percentage of your degree program have you completed?

- I am not in a degree program.
- I have completed less than 25% of the degree program.
- I have completed between 25% and 50% of the degree program.
- I have completed between 51% and 75% of the degree program.
- I have completed between 76% and 100% of the degree program.
- I am not attending a community college.

4.6 Are you currently a full-time or part-time student? <Part time is fewer than 12 credit hours per semester/quarter>

- Full time
- Part time

4.7 Do you reside on campus or off campus?

- On campus
- Off campus

4.8 _4.17 What disciplines are you majoring in? Check all that apply.

- 4.8 Social sciences
- 4.9 Humanities
- 4.10 Fine arts
- 4.11 Life sciences, including agriculture and health sciences
- 4.12 Physical sciences
- 4.13 Education, including physical education

- 4.14 Engineering
- 4.15 Business
- 4.16 Other
- 4.17 Undecided

**4.18 Which institution are you attending? <Required> <Drop-down list of institutions>
Before proceeding, please confirm that the name of your institution appears in box 4.18.**

4.19 If you have any other comments or insights about your information technology use and skills or about how IT has helped or not helped your undergraduate experience, please feel free to share them with us. _____

Section 5. Thank You.

You have reached the end of the survey. Thank you! Please submit the survey by clicking the Finish button now, or if you wish to review, print, or save your responses, click "Review."

– END SURVEY –