

Benefits of Students Using Technology in a Classroom

Even though technology can seem like a distraction or barrier to learning, listed below are many ways in which technology can optimize knowledge acquisition, increase information retention, improve accessibility and support students in achieving academic success.

Inclusivity: If academic use of technology is supported in a classroom, then students that have academic accommodations related to a disability, will not be singled out as the only laptop users in class.

Organization: Students that have organizational difficulties can benefit from technological note-taking functions that assist with generating lists, outlines, tables, graphs and allow the use of color-coding in order to establish visual order. In addition, students are able to keep everything in one place on their computer and can easily search by words or key phrases when looking for specific information.

Capture student viewpoint and increase student engagement: Using polls, apps, and websites such as Poll Everywhere, it possible to capture immediate student data. Some faculty use this method to check understanding and then clarify concerns or misconceptions students have.

Access to readings and notes: Many students will download the reading files and also take notes while reviewing before class. This allows students easy access to learning materials without having to print everything and carry it to class. It also increases accessibility to course material for students with academic accommodations.

Blackboard Access: Blackboard allows students to see assignments, due dates, discussion boards, quizzes and exams in class without having to print them. In addition, blackboard supports student's ability to manage their time and remain organized due to the increased accessibility of materials.

Participate in active learning: Technology can help with class activities and help students engage in active learning. For more information on incorporating active learning into your course, contact CET.

In-class projects: Getting time in class to meet in groups and do research, or work on a project with the professor and TA present, can assist students in learning actively. This allows faculty to direct students in real-time to reliable sources and relevant reference materials online.

Text-to-speech: For some individuals, specifically those who are non-native speakers or have difficulty reading, using text-to-speech options that allow students to audibly listen to what they have typed, can enhance understanding of the material.