Student Study, 2016

Welcome to the 2016 ECAR Student Technology Survey!

Study Description

Technology is a critical part of undergraduate students' experiences in higher education. This study explores technology ownership, use patterns, and expectations as they relate to the student experience. Colleges and universities can use the results of this study to better engage students in the learning process. Furthermore, institutions can use the data to improve IT services, increase technology-enabled productivity, prioritize strategic contributions of IT to higher education, plan for technology shifts that impact students, and become more technologically competitive among peer institutions.

We ask questions about your experiences with and attitudes toward technology and your academic experiences. Your responses will help people on your campus and beyond understand how to use technology more effectively to benefit students. There are no right or wrong answers; we would just like you to answer as honestly as you can. Participation in the survey is completely voluntary, and you can choose to exit the survey at any point. Your responses are anonymous. Required questions are indicated with an asterisk (*). This survey is expected to take about 20 minutes to complete.

Please use the survey's navigation buttons below to go back or forward within the survey. Using your device or browser's navigation buttons may result in lost answers.

Conditions and Stipulations

1.   I agree to complete this online survey for research purposes and that the data derived from this anonymous survey may be made available to my academic institution in unitary and aggregate formats and/or to the general public in the form of public presentations, reports, journals or newspaper articles, and/or in books.

2.   I understand the online survey involves questions about my IT experiences and expectations in higher education. Beyond demographics, all questions will address IT-related issues.

3.   I understand that this survey is expected to take about 20 minutes to complete. I understand that my participation in this research survey is totally voluntary and that declining to participate will involve no penalty or loss of benefits. Choosing not to participate will not affect my college/university status in any way. If I choose, I may discontinue my participation at any time. I also understand that if I choose to participate, I may decline to answer any question that I am not comfortable answering.

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4. I understand that I can contact the research team through survey@educause.edu if I have any questions about the research survey and my rights as a participant. I understand that the survey does not contain any questions that are a foreseeable risk, nor any questions likely to create discomfort to participants. I am aware that my consent will not directly benefit me but will provide data to inform higher education institutions on how to best improve IT experiences for students and faculty.

5. I understand that my survey responses are anonymous; once responses are submitted, the researchers will not be able to identify me or remove anonymous data from the database should I wish to withdraw it. EDUCAUSE owns and maintains the data collected for the project. Unitary-level data are stored on an EDUCAUSE server and in a cloud-based storage system indefinitely for use in longitudinal analysis. These data are contained in systems that are in password-protected commercial or cloud-based data centers that are SSAE 16 SOC certified. Only the account holder can access the data contained within the account.

6. By selecting "I agree" below I freely provide consent and acknowledge my rights as a voluntary research participant as outlined above and provide consent to EDUCAUSE to use my survey responses in the technology research in the academic community projects.

You must be an adult (at least 18 years old, in most jurisdictions) and a full-time or part-time undergraduate student to participate in this survey. Indicate your agreement with the informed consent statement below. *Required.

( ) I agree.
( ) I do not agree. <<exit survey>>
If you choose this option, you will exit the survey.

Section 1: About You

1.1 What is your age? *Required. <<exit survey if not at least 18 years of age>>

1.2 Which of the following best describes your class standing during the current academic year? *Required.
( ) Freshman or first-year student
( ) Sophomore or second-year student
( ) Junior or third-year student
( ) Senior or fourth-year student
( ) Fifth-year student or beyond
( ) Other type of undergraduate student
( ) Not an undergraduate student. Note, only undergraduate students are eligible to take this survey.
<<exit survey>>

1.3 If you would like to be entered into a drawing for a $50 or $100 Amazon.com gift certificate, please provide your e-mail address here.
The drawing will be held by June 30, 2016. E-mail addresses will be disassociated from the rest of the survey data after the survey window closes, keeping your responses anonymous. Your e-mail address will only be used for the purpose of this drawing and will be permanently deleted from our database no later than July 31, 2016.

_____
<<only visible if institution opts into the ECAR-hosted incentive program>>

Section 2: Device Use and Ownership

2.1 How many Internet-capable devices do you own?

Only include devices you actively use.
( ) None
( ) One
( ) Two
( ) Three
( ) Four
( ) Five
( ) Six or more

2.2a Do you own any of these devices?

	No, and I don't plan to purchase one within the next 12 months.	No, but I plan to purchase one within the next 12 months.	Yes, I currently own one (or more).
Laptop			<<show 2.2b and 2.2b.1>>
Tablet			<<show 2.2c and 2.2c.1>>
Smartphone			<<show 2.2d>>
Wearable technology (e.g., fitness device, smart watch, headset)			<<show 2.2e>>
Gaming devices (e.g., Xbox, PlayStation, etc.)			
Streaming media devices (e.g., Roku, iTV, Amazon Fire Stick)			

2.2b What type of operating system (OS) does your *laptop* have?

If you have more than one *laptop*, please select the one you use most often for school-related work.
( ) Windows
( ) Mac or OS X
( ) Chrome OS
( ) Linux
( ) Other OS
( ) Don't know

2.2b.1 Does your laptop have a touch screen?

( ) No
( ) Yes

2.2c What type of operating system (OS) does your *tablet* have?

If you have more than one *tablet*, please select the one you use most often for school-related work.

( ) iOS (iPad)

( ) Windows OS

( ) Android OS

( ) Fire OS

( ) BlackBerry OS

( ) Other OS

( ) Don't know

2.2c.1 Do you use either a keyboard or docking station with your tablet?

( ) No

( ) Yes

2.2d What type of *smartphone* do you have?

If you have more than one *smartphone*, please select the one you use most often for school-related work.

( ) iPhone

( ) Android phone

( ) Windows phone

( ) BlackBerry phone

( ) Other smartphone

( ) Don't know

2.2e What type(s) of *wearable technology* devices do you have?

Select all that apply.

[ ] Fitness device

[ ] Smart watch

[ ] Headset

[ ] Other, please specify: _____

2.3 In the past year, to what extent have you used each device for your academic work?

	Did not use at all	Used for at least one course	Used for about half of my courses	Used for most of my courses	Used for all my courses
Laptop					
Tablet					
Smartphone					
Wearable technology (e.g., fitness device, smart watch, headset)					

2.4 How important is each device to your academic success? <<show if respective item in Q2.3 = anything but "Did not use at all" options>>

	Not at all important	Not very important	Moderately important	Very important	Extremely important
Laptop					
Tablet					
Smartphone					
Wearable technology (e.g., fitness device, smart watch, headset)					

2.5 How important is it that you are able to do the following activities *from a handheld mobile device* (e.g., smartphone or tablet)? <<show if options in Q2.2a indicate tablet or smartphone ownership>>

	Not at all important	Not very important	Moderately important	Very important	Extremely important
Administrative activities (e.g., access library resources; register for courses; make tuition/fee payments; track financial aid)					
Academic activities (e.g. read e-texts; communicate with other students or instructors about class-related matters; look up course-related information while in class; take pictures of in-class activities)					

Section 3: Technology and the College/University Experience

3.1 How would you describe your overall technology experience at your institution?

( ) Poor
( ) Fair
( ) Neutral
( ) Good
( ) Excellent
( ) Don't know

3.2 Thinking about the past year, please rate your experiences with wireless networks on campus:

	Poor	Fair	Neutral	Good	Excellent	N/A
Reliability of access to Wi-Fi in student housing/dormitories						
Reliability of access to Wi-Fi in campus libraries						
Reliability of access to Wi-Fi in classroom/instructional spaces						
Ease of login to Wi-Fi network(s) provided by the institution						
Network performance (e.g., high speed, no interruptions)						

3.3 How many devices do you typically connect (or try to connect) to the network *at the same time* when you are on campus?

( ) I don't visit campus.
( ) None
( ) One
( ) Two
( ) Three
( ) Four
( ) Five
( ) Six or more
( ) Don't know

3.4 In a typical day, approximately how much time do you spend actively engaged in each of the following online activities?

	None	Less than 1 hour	1–2 hours	3–4 hours	5–8 hours	More than 8 hours
Online research/homework						
Social media						
Streaming video						
Online gaming						
Other online activity						

3.5 How useful do you find the following online early-alert or intervention notification services provided by your institution?

	Service not provided	Don't know	Not at all useful	Not very useful	Moderately useful	Very useful	Extremely useful
Guidance about courses you might consider taking in the future (e.g., "other courses you might like" or "we recommend" suggestions)							
Alerts if it appears your progress in a course is declining							
Suggestions for how to improve performance in a course if your progress is substandard							
Suggestions about new or different academic resources (e.g., tutoring, skills-building opportunities)							

3.6 Thinking about your college/university experiences within the past year, how many of your instructors…

	None	Very few	Some	Most	Almost all	All
…have adequate technology skills for course instruction						
…use technology during class to maintain your attention (i.e., to break up lectures)						
…use technology during class to make connections to the learning material or to enhance learning with additional materials (e.g., by providing audio or video examples/demonstrations/simulations of learning concepts)						
…encourage you to use your own technology devices during class to deepen learning (e.g., by searching online for related concepts, examples, or demonstrations)						
…encourage you to use online collaboration tools to communicate/collaborate with the instructor or other students in or outside class						
...encourage you to use technology for creative or critical thinking tasks						

3.7 Which resources/tools do you wish your instructors used less…or more?

	Don't know	(Less) 1	2	3	4	(More) 5
Learning management system (e.g., Blackboard, Moodle, Sakai, D2L, Canvas)						
Online collaboration tools to communicate/collaborate						
E-portfolios						
E-books or e-textbooks						
Free, web-based content to supplement course-related materials (e.g., OpenCourseWare, Khan Academy, iTunes U, YouTube, etc.)						
Simulations or educational games						
Lecture capture (i.e., record lectures for later use/review)						
Social media as a teaching and learning tool						
Nonkeyboard or nonmouse computer interfaces, such as voice, touchscreen, and gesture-based devices						
Software to create videos or multimedia resources						
Early-alert systems designed to catch potential academic trouble as soon as possible						
Search tools to find references or other information online for class work						
Publisher electronic resources (e.g., quizzes, assignments, tutorials, homework, practice problems)						
In-class polling tools (e.g, clickers, Poll Everywhere, SMS-based tools)						

Section 4: Learning Environments

4.1 In what type of learning environment do you tend to learn most?

( ) One with no online components
( ) One with some online components
( ) One that is mostly but not completely online
( ) One that is completely online
( ) No preference

4.2 In the past year, how many *courses* have you taken in each of the following categories?
<<enter number of courses>>
_____ Completely online, no face-to-face components
_____ Mostly online, some face-to-face components
_____ About half online and half face-to-face
_____ Some online components, mostly face-to-face components
_____ No online components, completely face-to-face components

4.3 When you think about documenting the skills you gain during your higher education experiences, which of these would you include on your résumé?
Select all that apply.
[ ] Undergraduate degree/diploma (associate's or bachelor's) from an accredited college or university
[ ] Certificate from an accredited college or university program
[ ] Certificate from an industry-based training program
[ ] Certificate of completion from an institution/organization offering freely available course content
[ ] Digital badge that represents a skills-based competency or completed activity
[ ] E-portfolio
[ ] Jobs worked during college
[ ] Major projects completed during coursework
[ ] Volunteering/community service
[ ] Other, please specify: _____*

4.4 To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

	Don't know	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
I get more actively involved in courses that use technology.						
I am more likely to skip classes when streamed or recorded lectures are available online.						
I am more likely to skip classes when materials presented in class are available online.						
When I entered college, I was adequately prepared to use technology needed in my courses.						
I am concerned that technology advances may increasingly invade my privacy.						
I wish I had been better prepared to use institution-specific technology when I started college (e.g., the course registration system, the learning management system, the library search system).						
I wish I had been better prepared to use basic software programs and applications when I started college (e.g., MS Office, Google Apps, etc.).						

4.5a Tell us ONE thing that *your instructors* can do with technology to enhance your academic success.

_____
_____
_____

4.5b Tell us ONE thing that *your institution* can do with technology to enhance your academic success.

_____
_____
_____

Section 5: Your Personal Computing Environment

5.1 Do you have a physical or learning disability that requires accessible or adaptive technologies for your coursework?

( ) No.
( ) Yes, I have one or more physical disabilities.
( ) Yes, I have one or more learning disabilities.
( ) Yes, I have both physical and learning disabilities.
( ) Prefer not to answer

5.2a How would you rate your institution's *awareness of student needs* for accessible or adaptive technologies needed for your coursework? <<display if answer to 5.1 was any of the "yes" options>>

( ) My institution is not aware of my needs for accessible or adaptive technologies.
( ) Poor
( ) Fair
( ) Neutral
( ) Good
( ) Excellent
( ) Don't know

5.2b How would you rate your institution's *support* for the accessible or adaptive technologies needed for your coursework? <<display if answer to 5.1 was any of the "yes" options>>

( ) I am not provided with the accessible or adaptive technologies I need.
( ) Poor
( ) Fair
( ) Neutral
( ) Good
( ) Excellent
( ) Don't know

Section 6: Engagement, Efficacy, and Enhancement

6.1 Thinking about your college/university courses within the past year, to what extent do you agree with the following statements, specifically considering the role technology has played? Technology helped me…

	Don't know	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
…engage in the learning process						
…develop a personal relationship with my instructors						
…ask my instructors questions						
…discuss course topics with my instructors						
…understand my instructors' expectations						
…view my instructors as approachable						
…get feedback from instructors in a timely manner						

…develop a personal relationship with other students						
…ask other students questions						
…discuss course topics with other students						
…view other students as approachable						
…get feedback from other students in a timely manner						
…participate in group activities						
…explain course ideas or concepts to other students						
…work with other students on class projects						
…learn something from other students						
…keep track of course news or announcements						
…investigate topics outside class time						
…reflect on course materials (e.g., readings, videos, etc.)						
…conduct research for class assignments						
…document class work or projects						
…complete case studies						
…analyze data						
…learn through games or interactive activities						
…learn through simulations						

6.2 Thinking about your college/university courses within the past year, to what extent do you agree with the following statements, specifically considering how technology has contributed to your learning? Technology used in my courses…

	Don't know	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
…enriched my learning experiences						
…was relevant to my achievement of course learning objectives						
…contributed to the successful completion of my courses						
…connected course materials and real-world experiences						
…helped me understand fundamental concepts						
…built relevant skills that were useful outside courses						
…helped make connections to knowledge obtained in other courses						

…helped me understand hard-to-grasp concepts or processes						
…was appropriate to the content being delivered						
…helped me think critically						
…helped me focus on learning activities or course materials						

6.3 Thinking about your college/university courses within the past year, to what extent do you agree with the following statements, specifically considering how using technology has been enabling for you? Technology used in my courses has enabled me to…

	Don't know	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
…receive feedback from others right away						
…communicate basic messages						
…understand what other people were trying to communicate to me						
…explain my ideas in specific terms						
…help others learn something from me						
…clearly explain new concepts I've learned to others						
…persuade my classmates why my ideas are relevant to class-related problems or topics						
…use technical or academic terminology correctly						
…explain my thought process from start to finish to others						

6.4 Thinking about your college/university courses within the past year, to what extent do you agree with the following statements about distractions in the classroom? I get distracted during classes because I…

	Don't know	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
…use social media						
…text						
…read e-mail						
…play games on a laptop or mobile device						
…read websites not related to class						
…surf the Web						
…read books, magazines, or other printed materials not related to class						
…read a newspaper						
…pass notes						
…talk to neighbors						

Section 7: Demographic and Informational Questions

Please note: If you do not click on a slider at all, no response will be recorded. If you wish to submit a neutral response, you must click on the slider button in its original position.

7.1a Rate yourself in terms of your DISPOSITION toward information technology on the following scales:

Reluctant	0 _____[__]_____ 100	Enthusiast
Late adopter	0 _____[__]_____ 100	Early adopter
Technophobe	0 _____[__]_____ 100	Technophile
Skeptic	0 _____[__]_____ 100	Cheerleader
By the book	0 _____[__]_____ 100	Experimenter
Critic	0 _____[__]_____ 100	Supporter

7.1b Rate your ATTITUDE toward information technology on the following scales:

Dissatisfied	0 _____[__]_____ 100	Satisfied
Discontented	0 _____[__]_____ 100	Content
Perturbed	0 _____[__]_____ 100	Pleased
Burdensome	0 _____[__]_____ 100	Beneficial
Useless	0 _____[__]_____ 100	Useful
Distraction	0 _____[__]_____ 100	Enhancement

7.1c Rate yourself in terms of your USAGE of information technology on the following scales:

Never connected	0 _____[__]_____ 100	Always connected
Peripheral	0 _____[__]_____ 100	Central
Old media	0 _____[__]_____ 100	New media
Infrequent	0 _____[__]_____ 100	Frequent

7.2 Thinking about your future, to what extent do you agree with the following statements?

	Don't know	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
Technology will play an important role in my chosen career after college.						
Technology that I use in my courses now will prepare me adequately for my chosen career after college.						

7.3 Are you…?

( ) Male
( ) Female
( ) Other
( ) Prefer not to answer

7.4 I intend to earn…

Select all that apply.
[ ] One or more digital badges that certify my skills
[ ] A vocational/occupational certificate
[ ] A college diploma <<if outside U.S.>>
[ ] An associate's degree or equivalent
[ ] A bachelor's degree or equivalent
[ ] An honor's degree <<if outside U.S.>>
[ ] A master's degree or equivalent
[ ] A doctoral degree or equivalent
[ ] An advanced professional degree (MD, DDS, JD, EdD, etc.)
[ ] Other, please describe: _____
[ ] N/A

7.5 In what area is your major?

Select the one that is the closest match to your primary major.
( ) Agriculture and natural resources
( ) Biological/life sciences
( ) Business, management, marketing
( ) Communications/journalism
( ) Computer and information sciences
( ) Education, including physical education
( ) Engineering and architecture
( ) Fine and performing arts
( ) Health sciences, including professional programs
( ) Humanities
( ) Liberal arts/general studies
( ) Manufacturing, construction, repair, or transportation
( ) Physical sciences, including mathematical sciences
( ) Public administration, legal, social, and protective services
( ) Social sciences
( ) Other major not described above
( ) Undecided

7.6 Are you currently considered a full-time or part-time student at the institution that asked you to complete this survey?

Part time is typically fewer than 12 credit hours per quarter/semester or their equivalent.
( ) Part time
( ) Full time

7.7 What is your ethnic background? <<U.S. institutions only>>
Select all that apply.
[ ] American Indian/Native American/Alaskan native
[ ] Asian/Pacific Islander
[ ] Black/African American
[ ] Hispanic/Latino
[ ] White
[ ] Other
[ ] Prefer not to answer

7.8 Do you live…?

( ) On campus
( ) Off campus

7.9 Are you the first person in your immediate family to attend college?

Immediate family refers to the family in which you grew up.

( ) No
( ) Yes
( ) Prefer not to answer

7.10 May we share your open-ended, written responses with your institution?

If you have included information in your written responses that could identify you, we suggest choosing "No."

( ) No <<preselected>>
( ) Yes

Please click the "Submit" button below to submit your survey. <<if desktop or laptop>>

Please tap the right arrow below to submit your survey. <<if phone or tablet>>

Thank you for responding to the 2016 ECAR Student Technology Survey!