Tufts Students Respond

The ECAR Study of Undergraduate Students and Information Technology, 2011
Objectives

• Identify 6 key highlights of the ECAR 2011 report

• Check your assumption about today’s students
ECAR National Study

- **Annual** survey of undergrads since 2004
- **2- & 4-year** colleges/universities *(self-selected)*
- **2011:** Two different national studies (Feb/Jun)
  - **Until 2011,** only surveyed *freshmen/seniors*
  - **In 2011**
    - Original survey in Feb *(freshmen/seniors)*
    - Pilot survey in Jun *(different group/all class standings)*
  - **From 2012,** will include *all class standings*
2011 Tufts Participants

- 572 seniors/freshmen responded
- 20% of the total seniors/freshmen
- 21 years old (average)
- 60% female: 40% male
- 98% full-time students (N=572)
Review 6 Highlights

from “trends” comparison of two different surveys: Tufts data (Feb survey, freshmen/seniors) and national data (Jun survey, all class standings)

1. Laptop ownership
2. Technology use for courses
3. Students view of IT use in their courses
4. Learning Management System (LMS)
5. Network-based use of the Office applications
6. Technology skills
1. Laptop ownership
Full-Sized Laptops Prevail.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tufts (N=572)</th>
<th>National (N=3,000)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>98%</td>
<td>87%</td>
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Almost every student has a full-sized laptop.
2. Technology use for courses
Tufts: 77% use their school library website.

Are you using the following for any of your courses this quarter/semester?
Select all that you are using.

Technology use for courses (%) (N=572)
National: 88% use their school library website.

Frequency of Technology Use for School & Personal Purposes (%) (N=3,000)

- Use word processors: 24% and 24% several times a day, 41% once a day, 7% a few times a week, and 96% less often.
- Use presentation software: 4% and 7% several times a day, 29% once a day, 45% a few times a week, and 85% less often.
- Use spreadsheets: 7% and 9% several times a day, 29% once a day, 38% a few times a week, and 83% less often.
- Use a course or learning management system: 27% and 18% several times a day, 19% once a day, 9% a few times a week, and 73% less often.
- Use e-books or e-textbooks: 6% and 8% several times a day, 20% once a day, 23% a few times a week, and 57% less often.
- Use graphics software (Photoshop, Flash, etc.): 5% and 17% several times a day, 29% once a day, 55% a few times a week, and 7% less often.
- Use web-based citation/bibliography tools: 15% and 32% several times a day, 51% once a day, 3% a few times a week, and 7% less often.
- Use simulations or play educational games: 9% and 24% several times a day, 37% once a day, 6% a few times a week, and 1% less often.
- Use video-creation software: 6% and 25% several times a day, 35% once a day, 4% a few times a week, and 1% less often.
- Use programming languages (C++, Java, etc.): 11% and 15% several times a day, 33% once a day, 5% a few times a week, and 4% less often.
- Use freely available course content: 8% and 17% several times a day, 30% once a day, 13% a few times a week, and 6% less often.
- Use audio-creation software: 6% and 19% several times a day, 28% once a day, 15% a few times a week, and 6% less often.
- Use e-portfolios: 6% and 13% several times a day, 21% once a day, 12% a few times a week, and 3% less often.
- Use speech recognition software: 9% and 14% several times a day, 9% once a day, 11% a few times a week, and 3% less often.
Many students do use the library resources for their coursework.

23% at Tufts still need help.
3. Students view of IT use in courses
Tufts: 80% prefer IT use in their courses. 62% prefer “moderate” use.
National: 58% prefer “blended learning.”

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<th>Preferred learning environment</th>
<th>Percentage of students</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Smaller classes with some online components</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminars and other smaller classes with no online components</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminars and other smaller classes that are completely online</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large lecture classes with some online components</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large lecture classes with no online components</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large lecture classes that are completely online</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classes that give the option to use as many or as few online components as I need</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Students prefer to learn in a blended format.
4. Learning Management System (LMS)
Tufts: 62% reported positive experiences with LMS.
National: LMS is the 2nd most requested tech on the students’ wish list.

Wish Instructor Used More Often (%) N=3,000

- E-mail: 39%
- Course or learning management system: 32%
- E-books or e-textbooks: 31%
- Presentation software: 27%
- Online forums or bulletin boards: 21%
- Online chats, chat events, webinars: 20%
- College/university library website: 20%
- Web-based videos: 19%
- Freely available course content: 19%
- Video-sharing websites: 18%

E-mail
Course or learning management system
E-books or e-textbooks
Presentation software
Online forums or bulletin boards
Online chats, chat events, webinars
College/university library website
Web-based videos
Freely available course content
Video-sharing websites
Many students use LMS, and want it more.
5. Network-based use of the Office applications
Tufts: 1 in 3 students use both network- & cloud-based word processors/spreadsheets.

National: no specific data

"Some of the applications you use on your desktop, laptop, netbook, or tablet computer are computer-based; that is, they run on your computer whether it is connected to the network or not. Other applications are network-based; they run only when your computer is connected to the Internet."
Students can access/back up/collaborate on coursework more easily with cloud-computing.
6. Technology Skills
Tufts: Perceived Technology Skills

Self-evaluation of technology skills (%) (N=572)

Top two most skilled:
- Using the Internet to effectively and efficiently search for information: 47% Fairly skilled, 30% Very skilled
- Evaluating the reliability and credibility of online sources of information: 46% Fairly skilled, 19% Very skilled

Top two least skilled:
- College/university library website: 29% Fairly skilled, 7% Very skilled
- Computer maintenance (software updates, security, etc.): 14% Fairly skilled, 9% Very skilled
- Graphics software (Photoshop, Flash, etc.): 9% Fairly skilled, 9% Very skilled
**Student Technology Skill Level** (N=3,000)
Percentage Responding 4 or 5 “My skill level meets my needs” (out of 5)

Some still need help with core basic software

Many lack confidence in specific areas
Summary: 6 Highlights

1. 98% ownership of a full-sized laptop
2. College/library website used heavily for coursework
3. Preference towards blended learning (moderate)
4. High % of LMS use/positive experiences/wish more
5. 1 in 3 students using cloud-based Office applications
6. Lack of technology skills in specific areas/kinds/levels
Thank You!

Full Reports?
Google Search:
“tufts ecar 2011” for the Tufts Students Respond report
“ecar national 2011” for the national ECAR report

Questions?
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