

Educational Technologies at Missouri (ET@MO)

<http://etatmo.missouri.edu>

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Director

ET@MO advances the meaningful use of educational technologies in teaching and learning through various programs, consultations and activities. ET@MO staff: 1) engage in relevant academic- and technology-oriented conversations, decisions, and initiatives; 2) facilitate the use of existing resources and infrastructure for the sake of quality, consistency, and efficiency, and; 3) research, design, and implement new educational technology innovations when feasible.

Although 2010 is not yet finished, so far this calendar year we have supported more than 230,000 student enrollments in approximately 5000 on-campus and distance courses taught by over 3000 faculty members. In particular, 180 new courses were either partially or fully developed for MU Direct (the equivalent of 138 fully developed courses) in Blackboard by the instructional design team. The staff at ET@MO was also able to facilitate communication and coordination of educational technology topics on multiple levels, such as the UM online initiative, the academic technology liaisons, Mizzou Advantage and the Technology Evaluation subcommittee. As Mizzou moves further into the realm of e-learning, the staff members will continue to facilitate and assist in these conversations.

Other teaching with technology support activities and programs in 2010 included: expanded support of technologies such as e-portfolios, Wimba, Tegrity (lecture capture), MOCAT and MyCourse and programs such as Teachnology, the Celebration of Teaching and Learning Excellence, and New Faculty Orientation.

ET@MO Services - At a Glance		
	2009 (% of total)	2010 (% of total)
Online Learning Systems		
<i>Total MU Courses supported on Blackboard</i>	4600 (62% of all courses)	5002 (67% of all courses)
<i>Unique Student ID's</i>	28,292 (90% of students)	29,415 (92% of students)
<i>Student Enrollments (counts student enrollment in each of their course sites)</i>	213,351	233,560
<i>Average course sites per student</i>	7.5	8
Distance Education Support (MU Direct)		
<i>Number of fully online courses supported</i>	387	457
<i>Full Development online course equivalent</i>	64	148
Pedagogy/Technology Consultations		
<i>One-on-one faculty consultations (technology, pedagogy, or both)</i>	300	635
<i>Faculty participating in TeAchnology</i>		
<i>Week-long summer workshop</i>	5	n/a
<i>April conference</i>	63	133

<i>Innovator publications</i>	2	2
Assessment Tools		
<i>Mid-semester course surveys -- MOCAT</i>	500	540
<i>End of the Semester surveys – MyCourse</i>	1152	645 (spring and summer only)
<i>Student response system (“clickers”)</i>		
<i>Courses using</i>	77	76
<i>Enrollments</i>	13,205	14,332
<i>Sakai</i>		
<i>Courses using</i>	34	58
<i>e-Portfolio student sites</i>	1349	1738
Other Educational Technologies		
<i>Courses using iTunes University</i>	33	13
<i>Tegrity (first available Fall 2009)</i>		
<i>Courses</i>	69	284
<i>Active Students</i>	2,100	8,310
<i>Wimba (first available May 2010)</i>		
<i>Courses</i>	N/A	61
<i>Active Students</i>	N/A	950

Program Highlights

ET@MO is a vital part of teaching and learning at the University of Missouri, both on campus and at a distance. Ensuring that the use of educational technology is used to advance student learning requires that faculty have access to professionals with both instructional design and educational technology expertise, which the ET@MO staff has. Individual faculty consultations included working directly with faculty members on their courses, which leads to a higher quality of instruction. There were also forty additional development webinars and workshops conducted for faculty members in 2010 – almost one every week.

While ET@MO provides Blackboard course sites and faculty technology/pedagogy support for both on campus and instructors working at a distance, additional in depth instructional design and programmatic support is provided for courses taught at a distance through MU Direct. Online course development includes curriculum planning, in-depth individual design assistance and higher levels of support for faculty teaching at a distance, including course review, content creation assistance and multimedia support.

ET@MO staff members also continued to support various educational technologies such as the student response system (“clickers”), lecture capture and videocasting via Tegrity, wikis and blogs, as well as the audio and video conferencing software Wimba Live Classroom. Tegrity provides instructors with opportunities to easily capture all kinds of classroom content, including in-class presentations, audio, powerpoint presentations, skill demonstrations, and annotations like formulas, and then subsequently publish those to Blackboard. Wimba Live classroom is currently used to support online real time instruction. It is currently being used by the Nursing program to support their new fully online PhD initiative and provide classroom contact hours. Several other divisions are using

it to provide additional virtual classroom “space” when room scheduling prevents enough seats from being provided, conduct online office hours and tutorials or to bring in guest lecturers inexpensively. Since both of these technologies are so new at Mizzou, many more diverse uses in teaching and learning will likely be forthcoming.

ET@MO’s META (Mizzou Educational Technology Assistance) Team serves the educational technology support needs of faculty while providing students with valuable educational experiences alongside some of MU's most innovative faculty members. This year, the members of the META Team provided 147 individual faculty consultations and were involved in several major projects including the creation of web-based tools and interactive multimedia modules. They were also able to help administer a campus wide teaching with technology survey and conduct academic research with Tegrity. In addition, they staff the ET@MO open lab hours for faculty every Thursday from 1-3.

ET@MO staff members were also able to provide several opportunities for faculty members to assess their teaching. The MoCAT (Missouri Cares about Teaching) course evaluation system was used to administer 540 mid-semester surveys in order to provide formative feedback while the faculty member still had time to make changes. At the end of the semester, MyCourse was used to administer end of the semester final evaluations for over 645 courses.

General Trends

The 2010 Educause Learning Initiative Horizon Report suggests that over the next year or two, there will be a number of interesting technologies used for teaching and learning at the higher education level. These include:

- Mobile Devices – the creation of content specifically to be displayed on cell phones, PDA’s, and other mobile devices. The iPhone and Android platforms in particular offer an easy way to develop educational applications and run them on a mobile platform. We have implemented the Blackboard Mobile Learn application on our current Blackboard server, which allows students to access their course content on iPads, iPhones, Androids, and Blackberry phones.
- Open Content – There is an enormous amount of free content easily available for teaching and learning at all levels. The incorporation of this into courses represents a fundamental change in the student and teacher relationship. The teacher acts as a guide to the many resources available rather than as the sole source. We have been working with faculty to determine the best ways to implement this content in their courses.
- Electronic Books – While these have been around for some time, a new focus is on making access to content easier for faculty and students. Students can already carry a whole semesters’ worth of textbooks on devices such as the iPad or Kindle. Blackboard and other companies such as MBS textbooks (Xplana) are working on ways to make e-content instantly available to both faculty and students in the virtual environments where teaching and learning take place.

Words from Faculty Members and Colleagues

The most effective way to describe the impact of what ET@MO does is through story – stories from the people we have worked with. Here are a few excerpts from faculty members and colleagues who have worked with staff members in 2010;

Garet,

I want to thank both you and Matthew for all your help, as well as for putting up with me this semester. You both have the patience of Job. You got me over the hurdles and I think I can now pretty much fly solo. I must add I'm very impressed with the Blackboard # 9 system and if I teach again, using it, hope to take advantage of more of its bells and whistles.-- Mike Robbins

I meant to send this long ago and finally am doing it. I am so appreciative of the wonderful work the team does to support me. Marla, Guy, Gary, Matthew, and Margaret go above and beyond to make sure I understand answers to their questions and schedule tutoring when I need it each semester. The response time to my questions is so quick and students tell me the same. I am convinced this is the best educational technology team in the world. Thanks to everyone for all they do! -- Connie Brooks

I just wanted to send you a note to let you know how much we appreciate your group's efforts providing and supporting BlackBoard. In keeping with President Forsee's goals, your BlackBoard environment represents one of the best, most directly beneficial examples of a shared service. Tim Nieuwenhuizen regularly updates me on the progress you all have made with the newest version and the admirable efforts expended to address the challenges that came with it. Tim has mentioned several times in the past that your staff members have been very helpful when called upon; one such example being the adjustment to your upgrade schedule to allow last session's CVM courses to be completed on version 8, even as you worked to get 9 into production. The College of Vet Med will no doubt be making increased use of BlackBoard as, with Tim's and your team's guidance, we migrate away from internal, outdated test delivery systems. I sincerely thank you. --- Matthew R. Keeler

Margaret:

Thanks for such a thorough and thoughtful response to my message. I'll pass this along, but I'll also hang onto it, because it is such a cogent explanation of what needs to be done to deal with fair use and copyright issues. I appreciate it. --Jim Cogswell

By the way-Matthew came over to SHP on Tuesday to give our faculty an overview. There were about 35 faculty in attendance and every person has commented about how helpful the session was. We very much appreciate Matthew's time and patience-really, everyone at ETatMO-and I wanted to convey these thoughts. I don't think you and your group hear it enough. – Shawna Strickland

Also, I hope you'll share with your boss (or whomever) that the set-up of the conference sessions as well as your support of our products with your faculty are far superior to what I encounter at many of the universities across the U.S. It appears that you have a very, very strong team of colleagues! -- Cindy Yates, VP Sales Higher Education, eInstruction

Thanks to all of YOU for such a great one-on-one professional development experience! I feel much more at ease preparing for my classes knowing how many resources are available—I'll be sure to spread the word! -- Debi Hanuscin