

VISION PLAN FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY THE COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION 2000-2001

Development of this Technology Vision Plan has included involvement from the following groups in the College of Communication:

Instructional Technology Committee:

Patty Alvey, Associate Professor, Advertising
Lisa Bedore, Assistant Professor, Communication Sciences and Disorders
Cheri Cheann, Undergraduate student
Craig Champlin, Associate Professor, Communication Sciences and Disorders, Committee Co-Chair
Ron Gillam, Associate Professor, Communication Sciences and Disorders
Lavae Hoffman, Graduate student
Carol Means, Digital Archive, College of Communication
Martha Russell, Asst. Dean, CO-Chair
Craig Scott, Assistant Professor, Speech Communication
Charles Soto, Tech Team, College of Communication
Francesca Talenti, Assistant Professor, RTF
Jim Tankard, Professor, Professor, Journalism
Elizabeth Tucker, Assistant Professor, Advertising

Department Chairs and Assistant, Associate Deans
Tech Team

TABLE OF CONTENTS

[Executive Summary](#)

[College Vision, Goals and Objectives, Recent Progress Toward Realizing Goals](#)

[Facilities and Staffing, Other Infrastructure](#)

[Proposed Projects/Titles](#)

[College It Funding Overview and Life Cycle Methodology](#)

Appendices

[1 Previous Projects and Progress and ITAC Expenditure Reports](#)

[2 Networking Status and Technology](#)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The College of Communication seeks to ensure that what we teach and how we teach is relevant and competitive in a fluid and changing technological environment. To do this, the College has established several technology goals:

Achieve digital literacy with faculty, staff and students.

Deploy instructional technologies to improve students' experiences and to optimize the time and capabilities of faculty and staff.

Give students experience and skills with state-of-practice technologies.

Understand and define the requirements for new communication technologies.

Collaborate with non-academics to benchmark/test new communication technologies.

Help set the national research agenda for communication technologies.

Across the fields of communication represented in the College's departments, several important intellectual, research and production frontiers have begun to take shape:

Optimizing linear and nonlinear content and communications for a converged media environment in which the audience can control how and when they access what is offered.

Collaborating and exchanging digital information among people working and playing together in an anytime, anywhere environment.

Applying the science and technology of human communication to develop protocols, device requirements and content to improve human communication and the technologies that support it.

Fast moving technology trends in information storage, retrieval and dissemination require that the College of Communication provide its faculty and students with a digital infrastructure for instruction and research. It requires timely upgrades of hardware and software for faculty, staff and students. Space constraints in the College are intense, and technology resources that mitigate space constraints must be a priority. Existing resources in the Communication Computer Center (C3 Lab) and the Instructional Media Center must be maintained; development of The Digital Archive must be continued; and three new initiatives are foreseen: The Collaboratory, the Networked Media Lab, and Research TV.

The College seeks \$365,000 from ITAC for FY00-01 – \$165,000 for continued management and maintenance of the C3Lab, \$185,000 for the next phase of development for the Digital Archive, \$30,000 for Wireless Collaboratory, and \$10,000 for ResearchTV. The capabilities enabled by these resources will help the College meet the fundamental levels of technology required in the academic fields comprised by the College's departments and required for graduates of the College of Communication. The availability of these capabilities will also provide vehicles for interdisciplinary collaboration at UT and internationally. Thirty faculty members in the College are currently pursuing course-related curriculum developments that require these new capabilities; and half of these have also defined research projects that would utilize these technologies.

We anticipate that wireless technologies will become important to the College's programs. Two initiatives are target for early exploration. The instructional and research activities of the Collaboratory require computer-mediated communication from distant locations. A wireless LAN for the laptop PCs in the Collaboratory will allow assessment of wireless technologies, as well as experimentation in distant communications. Additionally, experimental use of wireless LANs in classrooms would enable evaluation of wireless alternatives to hard wiring the many UT buildings in which Communication courses are taught and to which faculty members currently have to transport multimedia equipment.

In addition, the College plans FY99-00 expenditures of approximately \$850,000 from the Communication Learning Equipment Fee (CLEF) funds for technologies supporting specific College course needs. CLEF funds will be allocated in FY00-01 on the basis of departmental requests (spring 00) and college-wide resource planning (spring00.) Through faculty and student interaction with hardware and software vendors – and resulting definition of requirements for new communication technologies – supplementary equipment gift and grant requests will be integrated into appeals made as a part of the Capital Campaign.

COLLEGE VISION, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES, RECENT PROGRESS

Four years from now when this year's freshmen in the College of Communication graduate and take their first jobs, many of them will work with technologies that haven't even been introduced yet. We expect that broadband and wireless technologies will be a part of this, as well as advanced networking technologies. To prepare them for these jobs and the ones that will follow, we seek to create and sustain an understanding of communication technology that is enduring. At the same time we seek to make sure that what we teach and how we teach it is relevant in a fluid and changing technological environment. To do this, task forces and working groups in the College continue to meet and continually refresh the College's technology goals.

The College has set the following as required technical skills for its undergraduate students: word processing, spreadsheets, presentation software and Internet access tools/web browsers. Requirements to use these applications are integrated into the curricula. In addition, each program area has identified critical hardware and software capabilities unique to its students and has integrated related requirements for technical know-how and conceptual understanding into coursework.

All faculty and staff of the College have personal computers, Ethernet connections (See Appendix 2) and access to computer tutorial and instructional programs through the University's Academic Computer and Information Technology Services (ACITS.) Faculty, staff and students in the College use both Mac and Wintel computer platforms. In some communication fields, specialized software is available exclusively for one platform or the other. Consequently, the College's labs include both platforms, and recommendations regarding student purchase of computers include suggestions for either.

Faculty and students are experimenting with new uses of technology for communication. Relationships with equipment vendors involve beta testing new nonlinear editing products, demonstrations of MPEG encoding hardware, and experimental networked collaboration in instructional and production environments. Research projects conducted by faculty and graduate students are defining new technological requirements for hearing diagnostics, developing new metrics for measuring Internet audiences, and

developing criteria for the application of geographic information systems for the study of telecommunications in rural communities and for evaluation of emergency communications. Technology-based outreach activities are linking students, faculty and professionals in organizations such as the International Cleft Palate Association, the American Academy of Advertising, and the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce Multimedia Community.

With funds provided by UT's Instructional Technology Advisory Committee, (See Appendix 1) the College has upgraded the C3 Lab (available to students across the University after 5PM.) Software upgrades for this lab, funded by the ITAC and Instructional Technology Fees now offer the compliment of fundamental software programs required for College undergraduates, as well as specialized programs for development of graphic and multimedia products by students; additional resources to support student development of streaming media products are needed. The College plans to continue to contract for maintenance and management of the C3 Lab with the ACITS technology staff. In addition, CLEF funds have financed multimedia equipment upgrades in all CMA classrooms, as well as hardware and software for department-maintained labs. <http://www.utexas.edu/coc/clef/>

Use of the World Wide Web by faculty to publish and disseminate class-related information has grown, and Internet chat rooms are used for discussion outside of class. WebCT is used by over a dozen courses per semester. Many courses depend on the use of digital resources and require an IT infrastructure that can make those resources available on campus as well as off campus. To address these burgeoning needs, the College has begun some investments in college-wide technical resources – hardware and software for the Instructional Media Center and the first computer component of a Digital Archive and Networked Media Lab. As the fields of communication continue to migrate to digital development, storage and delivery of communications, expanded use of instructional equipment is envisioned in all departments of the College, as are more investments in college-wide technology resources.

FACILITIES AND STAFFING, OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE

The College of Communication has one of the most advanced networks on the University of Texas at Austin campus. (See Appendix 2) With these networking resources, the College is capable of implementing high-bandwidth applications from interactive web applications to live video and audio streaming. The College's plans for doing so rests on the strategy of undertaking experimental activities using technical resources internal to the College and then moving successful, ready for "prime-time" applications to UT campus servers that are maintained on a 7/24 basis for consistently dependable reliability and operation. We anticipate a rapid and steady flow of experimental applications of digital communication from the College to the UT campus servers and network technologies using the capabilities proposed in this plan. To prepare for this, it will be important for the UT network and server system to have equivalent or scaled-up capability and for the College to have the expanded capacity requested in this plan.

All of the major classrooms in CMA have been equipped with Ethernet access and multimedia capabilities. Because of space constraints in the College, almost half of the College's classes are taught in other buildings. Many of these classrooms have not yet been adapted with updated multimedia capabilities. A process of prioritizing assignment of CMA classrooms to accommodate faculty needs for instructional technology has recently been established. However, limited availability of classrooms with multimedia equipment makes it necessary for faculty who have developed multimedia instructional materials to maintain redundant sets of materials so that, if necessary because of room assignments in other buildings, they can still teach in non-equipped classrooms.

The technical resources and software upgrades of the College are managed and maintained by a small technical support team, augmented by contracted services from ACITS. Students tend to rely on classmates, teaching assistants, and UT computing services for help with software. Faculty members rely on teaching assistants for help with software, and sometimes use computing services from the Center for Instructional Technology or ACITS. Teaching assistants use the resources of ACITS and, to some extent CIT, as well as other teaching assistants. Staff members generally rely on each other for software support; some utilize software training resources available through UT computing services (ACITS or Administrative Computing.) Departments in the college operate instructional laboratories that support student skill building and utilization of the hardware, software and knowledge-ware essential for the undergraduate and graduate courses.

Pressing needs exist among staff and faculty for more "just-in-time" and troubleshooting assistance for learning and using new software applications and new versions of existing software applications. A significant gap exists between faculty who eagerly experiment with the use of new instructional technologies for their classes and those who resist the burdensome expenditure of nonproductive time to incorporate computers into their instruction. The polarization of the technology culture of the College requires an investment of internal human resources to support technology adoption. This infusion will accelerate the rate of adoption and create a cohesive and consistent foundation of digital literacy among faculty and staff, promote the diffusion of digital technologies; and incorporate this know-how into instructional technologies for the College's students.

To catalyze this infusion, the Dean’s Office has created a Faculty Studio and has made release time available for a limited number of faculty technology leaders. The Faculty Studio serves as a staging and preparation area, for faculty and their teaching assistants, for technology enhancements to undergraduate and graduate instruction. It is open to faculty members of the College of Communication and their teaching assistants. M-F, 8AM to 5 PM and by appointment. Several types of assistance are available: putting course materials online; developing a web-based course; making a CD-ROM; digitizing images, video, sound; archiving digital content; video conferencing; animation and 3-D graphics; evaluating software/hardware.

We anticipate that this investment in “just-in-time” technical consulting for faculty and teaching assistants will effect a step-function in the technology culture of the College and establish a new level of expected technical proficiency for both faculty and teaching assistants. The College plans a bridge-team approach to this consulting. This approach will team departmental teaching assistants and College technical project assistants – to assist faculty in implementation of instructional technologies following their initial training by ACITS and CIT, and to promote the exchange of lessons learned and best practices by early innovators.

PROPOSED PROJECTS

Academic instructional projects

Project Title: C3 Lab (Communication Computer Center)

Description:

Although many students in the College of Communication have or have access to personal computers where they live, on or off campus, much of the software required for their courses is specialized and expensive. The C3 Lab provides fifty computer workstations and serves an important function for students who need access to course-specific software, as well as for those who need access to computers, higher bandwidth than is available off campus, and content from the Digital Archive. After 5PM, the C3Lab is available to students from all colleges on campus. The College plans continued updating of hardware and software, additional hardware and software to support digitization of video and audio streams for student multimedia products, along with continued contracting with ACITS for management and maintenance.

Space Needs:

The C3Lab is located in a space off the 3rd floor lobby in the CMA.

Audience:

Any University of Texas student may use the ACITS-staffed C3Lab. The operation of the C3Lab as a joint use facility provides a strong alternative to the SMF for providing student access to information technology. Further, the facility offers access to software and accessories needed by many University students to produce graphic and multimedia products. The lab is restricted to students from the College of Communication from 8-5, Monday-Friday

Proposed Budget/Equipment:

The College requests funding of \$150,000 from ITAC to defray operating costs for the management/maintenance contract with ACITS and to expand hardware and software needed for digitization and compression for students’ multimedia products.

	<i>Hardware</i>	<i>16,000</i>
	<i>Software</i>	<i>9,000</i>
	<i>Maintenance contract with ACTIS</i>	<i>140,000</i>
	<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>165,000</i>

Project: The Digital Archive and Networked Multimedia Lab

Description:

Broadcasting, journalism, advertising, Radio Television and Film production and studies, corporate and health services information fields are rapidly moving to information environments based on digital content that can be remotely accessed for simultaneous viewing and flexibly distributed on a customized basis to multiple destinations. Students in the College of Communication need exposure and experience with information environments that are compatible with current industry standards, as well as with emerging technologies that will quickly evolve into the industry standards in the future – in radio, television, print and online media. They need

opportunities to work in a networked multimedia infrastructure using a digital archive.

Space Needs:

The Digital Archive and Networked Media Lab can be implemented in existing space in CMA.

Audience:

This archive and network capability is envisioned as an experimental and instructional resource for faculty and students – streaming course-specific resources, completion of class assignments, testing of novel techniques (“not-quite-ready-for-prime-time”) and their refinement. Once developed (“ready-for-prime-time” or distance delivery) these digital products would be migrated to equipment and services peered by UT operations and supported by UT staff.

The College’s current infrastructure supports online education and computer video networks. We acquired a high end digital media server this summer, and we have begun building the Digital Archive. This fall, with funds provided by ITAC, we will acquire a digital video encoder, which will provide flexible encoding options for video, complementing the scanning capabilities we have for graphic images. The College has advanced digital audio and video production facilities and a dedicated laboratory for development of faculty technology initiatives. The Communication digital media management team has been invited to spend several days at Northwestern University collaborating with members of the Internet2 Digital Video Network project that serves the I2DVN with Ipv6 protocols. Other digital video productions are being prepared for international dissemination via the ResearchTV network affiliated with the I2DVN project. During the semester break, in collaboration with several companies, we will conduct a prototype demonstration of digital video distribution using extremely high speed connectivity between two buildings in the College. Following demonstration of the prototype, the development of a full-scale system will provide a work flow process that will make the system usable by faculty and students for media streaming technology. It will support retrieval of digital media assets and dissemination of digital media to the university and broader community, as well as instruction and collaboration with other educational institutions, public agencies, industry and people in the community.

Budget/Equipment:

To develop this Digital Archive and Networked Media Lab, the College needs an industry standard database for managing multimedia content production, a user interface that will integrate the software systems that will comprise this digital content management system, and a high performance server that will access assets in the Digital Archive. The College requests \$105,000 from ITAC in FY99-00 for a Sun workstation, a media production management database, and the development of a software interface that will make the system easily accessible by faculty and students.

	ITAC	Other College	External	Total
Hardware	50,000			50,000
Software	80,000		25,000	105,000
Staffing	30,000			30,000
Total	160,000		25,000	185,000

Project: The Wireless Collaboratory

Description:

The College is establishing a joint-use, multipurpose computer-based collaborative communications lab – with expanded video conferencing capabilities and networked personal computers that will support group communication in the lab, as well as collaborative communication with research laboratories and instructional facilities at other universities and with selected collaborators.

Space:

The College of Communication is seriously and severely limited in space at this time. We are extremely fortunate that existing classroom space in CMA is available to be used for this project. An expansion, adaptation and refurbishment of the College’s current Video Conferencing and Distance Learning Facility is planned. The adapted space will permit continued class and research use of the video teleconferencing equipment now in the space. The addition of a dedicated network server, 20 networked PC laptops (with software) and an overhead projection unit with a group viewing screen will leverage the use of that space and equipment to expanded instruction and research purposes. Modifications to the room will improve the room’s flexibility and ergonomics and optimize available space for multiple instructional and research purposes. This project adds no space requirements to the Collaboratory. Rather, it contributes to the alleviation of them.

Audience:

The Wireless Collaboratory will enable instructional and research efforts related to digital work group collaboration, interactive and computer-based focus groups, video-conferenced meeting and interview facilities, and observation and data collection at remote locations. It will leverage expertise in both group communication and new communication technologies that support collaboration, considered by many to be the “killer applications” to be enabled by the ultra high speed, high bandwidth communications coming with advanced networking. It will develop new expertise in wireless LANs. It will also provide essential technical resources for doctoral and postdoctoral research.

The Collaboratory will enable UT Austin faculty and students to cooperatively develop and access audio and video with collaborators at other universities for live, on-demand and multicast streams for research and instruction. The Wireless Collaboratory will open opportunities to expand student involvement beyond the physical laboratory itself. It will enable experimental applications of wireless communications for faculty delivery of multimedia and other technology enhancements to CMA classrooms. This experimental retrieval will provide important information about the feasibility of using wireless LANs as an alternative to costly building renovations necessitated by campus network upgrades.

The College has committed \$90,000 to begin the adaptations of the space and initial acquisition of equipment. This initial phase will equip the room with networked laptop PCs, working off of a dedicated server. We are seeking ITAC funds for the acquisition of a dedicated and experimental server, enhancements to the laptop PCs in the Collaboratory, and software applications that will enable PCs in the Collaboratory to communicate with each other via a wireless LAN.

Budget/Equipment:

	<i>ITAC</i>	<i>Other College</i>	<i>External</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Hardware</i>		<i>15,000</i>		<i>15,000</i>
<i>Software</i>		<i>10,000</i>	<i>5,000</i>	<i>15,000</i>
<i>Staffing</i>	<i>30,000</i>			<i>30,000</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>30,000</i>	<i>25,000</i>	<i>5,000</i>	<i>60,000</i>

Project: Research TV

Description:

ResearchTV is a collaboration (now 15 universities and several corporations) founded by a core group of leading accredited research universities and research organizations to experiment with opportunities to expand high bandwidth modes of delivery and exchanges in educational and research-oriented information. Originated in 1997, ResearchTV participants develop and implement projects to facilitate new methods of national and international communication about research. This content is used and shared by classes across the country. Its outreach potential is very strong.

Content contributed to ResearchTV by UT will be digital video. It can be used for on-campus instruction, as well as for distance-independent instruction. The College of Communication is establishing the digital production environment for the production of this content. Its Digital Archive will provide data warehousing until the content is delivered to the ResearchTV server at the University of Washington.

Space Needs:

None required for this project.

Audience:

The collaborating universities and their faculty, students and public constituents are the primary audience for the programs about university research. The experimental service (offered via IPv6 and satellite broadcast) will be available to the broadest possible audience: the general public, educational institutions, and businesses via both broadband and on-demand communications technologies in both the analog and digital domains.

Budget/Equipment:

	ITAC	Other College	External	Total
Hardware	10,000			10,000
Software				
Staffing				
Total	10,000			10,000

Research:

The C3 Laboratory, The Digital Archive, The Wireless Collaboratory, and Research TV will support research, graduate and undergraduate instruction. They will facilitate the participation of faculty members in the College of Communication in national R&D endeavors related to media convergence, digital communications and high performance computing. Research initiatives in advanced networking, collaborative decision-making software technologies; studies with collaborating organizations on children and new media; clinical research and educational support to Austin Smiles (cleft palate surgery) outreach in Central America; and investigations with Latin and South American colleagues regarding communications, telecommunications policies, journalism, and NAFTA will also be facilitated.

Administrative:

Many staff members take advantage of computer and software courses offered by Administrative Computing and by ACTIS. In addition to these formal instructional opportunities, there is an expressed need for just-in-time assistance with special software applications related to staff responsibilities for management, administration and assistance to faculty, teaching assistants and students. Considerable expertise exists among the College's staff, and they have expressed a willingness to share that expertise with each other.

**COLLEGE INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY FUNDING OVERVIEW
AND LIFE CYCLE METHODOLOGY**

Investments totaling \$1,829,204.31 were spent in FY98-99 for technology in the College of Communication. Roughly 13% of these funds were provided by ITAC (\$231,982.10) and 42% came from the Learning Technology Fee. <http://www.utexas.edu/coc/clef/99/projects.html> Nearly half of this (\$820,557.49) came from the Communication Learning Equipment Fee (CLEF) funds and was directed to instructional labs managed by departments in the College of Communication and to equipment resources that are used by all departments.

Technology resources available over the past three years have been dedicated to bringing the College's classrooms and instructional labs into the modern era and establishing a competitive IT network. Following the completion of FY99-00 technology investments which will establish an availability of fundamental instructional technologies, the College envisions regular upgrades, as well as strategic new initiatives that will define and build pinnacles of excellence in the use of communication technologies that invite interdisciplinary collaboration and are internationally relevant. The College has embarked on a trajectory of technology planning that first began with internal working groups, has now received input from the College of Communication Advisory Council, and will proceed through a series of iterative steps involving academic, administrative and student input. It is envisioned that this planning process will become integrated with basic college planning activities in its second cycle.

The life cycle of computers in the College of Communication varies, and a life cycle approach to hardware and software planning is being developed. Each computer is utilized for the longest possible time period, but not necessarily in the same place for which it was originally purchased. Generally, the College procures new computing equipment with an expectation that it will be replaced for its intended function at the end of 3 years. If the equipment is still useful after 3 years, it will be given "a new life" in another role and used until it is no longer useful. Repairs, upgrades, replacements become the responsibility of the new owner. New equipment replaces the original and enters a new 3-year cycle. So, one computer may have several three-year life cycles. For example, the College just purchased new computers for the C3 Lab. These computers will have a three-year life cycle within the C3Lab, and after three years, all computers will be replaced. Those computers will then begin a new life cycle as they replace older computers in whatever area of the College the need is most intense. Generally, the trickledown computers replace the older machines of faculty and staff, but they are occasionally needed in labs.

Across the College, instructional computers tend to be newer and closer to industry standard. Those machines are rotated out with greater frequency in an effort to present students with the highest level of function possible. Research machines are generally purchased using research funds and are therefore newer or older depending upon the funds available to the researcher. The age of administrative computers, i.e., faculty and staff desktop machines, varies by department. For example, the Department of Advertising provides comparatively high-level computers for its faculty and staff and updates them on about a three-year life cycle. The other departments in the College (CSD, RTF, SPE, JOU) have more varied equipment needs, and their non-computer equipment needs compete for resources with computer needs, especially regarding computers for faculty/staff. Therefore, older faculty/staff computers in these departments are often targeted for replacement by computers in their second life cycle when they become available.

Appendix 1: Total IT Summary Expenditures Report 1998-99

All College of Communication Technology Funding

Sources

Balance Forward from FY 1997-1998					\$ 178,024.53
Income					\$ 1,976,358.22
TOTAL					<u><u>\$ 2,154,382.75</u></u>

	ITF (College Fee)	CLEF (College Fee)	ITAC		
Salaries and Wages	\$ 305,990.11	\$ 92,916.85	\$ 684.00	\$	399,590.96
Fringes	\$ 62,190.47	\$ 16,606.17	\$ 312.75	\$	79,109.39
Operating and Facilities	\$ 41,092.08	\$ 4,461.30	\$ 6,731.01	\$	52,284.39
Internal Operations Equipment	\$ 52,370.17	\$ -	\$ 1,063.42	\$	53,433.59
Programs and Projects	\$ 315,021.89	\$ 706,573.17	\$ 196,893.17	\$	1,218,488.23
Network	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 26,297.75	\$	26,297.75
TOTAL	\$ 776,664.72	\$ 820,557.49	\$ 231,982.10	\$	<u><u>1,829,204.31</u></u>
BALANCE FORWARD				\$	<u><u>325,178.44</u></u>

Funds used for this summary:

	Income	Expenditures	Balance Forward
Information Technology Fee	\$ 799,995.04	\$ 776,664.72	\$ 23,330.32
Communication Learning Equipment Fee	\$ 1,127,266.07	\$ 820,557.49	\$ 306,708.58
Information Technology Advisory Committee	\$ 227,121.64	\$ 231,982.10	\$ (4,860.46)
	<u><u>\$ 2,154,382.75</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,829,204.31</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 325,178.44</u></u>

Appendix 2. Network Status and Technology Classroom Inventory.

The College of Communication currently provides over 900 fully-switched Ethernet ports operating at 10-100Mbps, spanning 4

buildings. This is segmented in 21 distinct subnets, for efficient traffic management. Backbone connectivity is via dual full-duplex switched Gigabit uplinks.

Labs:

There are 14 distinct teaching computer labs. These include:

- CMA 2.222 CSD Child Language Analysis Lab
- CMA 2.224 CSD Interactive Speech and Hearing Lab
- CMA 3.124 Communication Computer Center
- CMA 4.300 Computer Assisted Journalism Labs
- CMA 4.206E Digital Nonlinear Editing Lab
- CMB 4.132 Journalism Broadcast Newscenter
- CMB 4.106 RTF Budgeting/"Movie Magic" Lab
- CMA 5.130 RTF ACTLab
- CMA 5.114B Speech Multimedia Lab
- CMA 6.102 Advertising TexasMedia Lab
- CMA 6.202 Advertising Creative Computer Studio
- CMA 6.200 Photojournalism Computer Lab
- CMA 4.206B/CMB 1.112 Digital Radio Studios

Typical functionality includes Internet-based tools, image editing and compositing, word processing, statistical analysis and graphing, presentation and typography. Supporting these are numerous Windows NT, Macintosh and Unix servers. Currently, all NT and UNIX systems are Dell PowerEdge models.

Additionally, the College maintains a Video Conferencing Facility, CMA 5.158. This facility includes a VTEL Team Conferencing System 2000 (TC-2000), supports Industry Standard connections at up to 512Kbps rates (<http://www.vtel.com/products/esa/tc2000.htm>). Connectivity via UT System fractionated T1, or to any site via multiplexed ISDN. We are able to participate in satellite up/downlinks via the system or the campus broadband (CATV) network. There are multiple camera sources and monitors, as well as alternative inputs such as an electronic whiteboard and document camera. Internet or other PC applications can also be incorporated into a conference.