

**CENTER FOR INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGIES
VISION PLAN • 2004–2005**

SUMMARY OF REQUESTS

The DIIA Center for Instructional Technologies (CIT) is a campus-wide and interdisciplinary center that offers leadership and assistance to all UT Austin educators who want to incorporate technology into instruction. CIT serves as a training, consulting, and resource center, and as an incubator for teaching, learning, and research projects using promising new technologies.

For 2003–04 CIT received \$522,846 in ITAC funding, \$393,855 for ongoing operations, and \$128,991 for one-time capital expense projects. CIT is requesting \$964,000 in the 2004–05 ITAC Vision Plan. This represents a 13% increase over 2003–04. Of the 18 requested items, 1 is a student program (\$25,000), 4 are faculty support (\$180,000), 6 are both students and faculty (\$433,000), 4 are lab, network, servers, and hardware (\$225,000), and 3 for operational support (\$105,000).

TOTAL REQUEST FOR 2004–2005	\$964,000
<i>Ongoing Operations</i>	<i>\$619,000</i>
The ~FAST Tex program	\$120,000
Blackboard support and development	\$50,000
Multimedia teaching, training, and production lab operation	\$105,000
Large Class technology classroom support	\$18,000
Expanding faculty development workshops	\$62,000
New technology evaluation and development	\$54,000
Salary increases for current technical staff	\$11,000
Lifecycle funding of staff equipment	\$75,000
Professional development and training	\$15,000
Online lecture and course development / accessibility compliance	\$20,000
Course conversion for transformative learning online	\$50,000
World Lecture Hall expansion	\$39,000
<i>Proposed New Ongoing Operations</i>	<i>\$225,000</i>
Building Block development	\$100,000
Technology assessment support	\$50,000
TA Teaching With Technology certification	\$25,000
Usability and accessibility compliance support	\$50,000
<i>One-time Capital Expense Projects</i>	<i>\$120,000</i>
E-space learning and teaching lab	\$30,000
Mobile training and production lab	\$40,000
Server room modification, networking, hardware and storage	\$50,000

Modifications to last year’s Vision Plan include:

- CIT lab—evolving focus to a more research-oriented e-space learning lab that includes a mobile lab component

- Courseware support and development—adding integrated support for Blackboard Building Block development and various CMS tools
- ~FAST Tex program—expanding the quality, scope, and duration of student support due to the growing number of ambitious and technically advanced projects from faculty

The CIT request this year acts on recommendations made by the ITAC-funded Faculty Technology Use Report 2002–2003 <<http://www.utexas.edu/academic/diia/research/iac/>> regarding increasing training opportunities for faculty, expanding support for course development, and developing best practices.

SUMMARY DISCUSSION OF PROJECTS

Ongoing Operations

\$619,000

~FAST Tex program

\$120,000

Currently, CIT is paying 51 students and supporting 61 faculty projects, close to a 100% increase over last year. We are requesting increased funding to support students involved with the ~FAST Tex program. The funds are to be used for equipment and wages for students working with faculty to incorporate technology into UT Austin courses.

Blackboard support

\$50,000

To provide support for faculty using Blackboard, CIT needs continued funding for a training specialist.

Multimedia teaching, training, and production lab operation

\$105,000

We anticipate an incremental increase to the fees paid to ITS Departmental Services to manage the CIT lab. Since the CIT repeatedly turns away clients needing larger than tabloid-sized scans, there is a campus need for a sheet scanner to complement existing equipment.

Large Class technology classroom support

\$18,000

To support the Provost’s Large Class initiative, CIT will work with a part-time graduate student intern to coordinate and offer technology console training for faculty. The funding will also produce best practice examples and online resources for effective teaching using classroom console technologies (PowerPoint, document camera, video, Web sites).

Expanding faculty development workshops

\$62,000

Expanding faculty development workshops to several times a year would prepare more faculty to work with their department and college instructional technology units, participate more effectively in the IITAP and ~FAST Tex programs and use CMS tools more efficiently. Funds would be used for a training specialist as well as faculty experts and consultants to develop instructional tutorials and conduct workshops.

New technology evaluation and development

\$54,000

Mixing wireless and portable technologies holds promise for instruction at UT; a full-time programmer needs to be hired. CIT needs to purchase software frameworks and libraries such as the JSML Java statistics library. A 19-hour student developer is needed explore the potential of Flash video and media in conjunction with Flash communication server.

Salary increases for technical staff **\$11,000**
CIT must be able to retain a highly skilled and experienced IT staff. The request represents an anticipated 3 percent raise for technical staff.

Lifecycle funding of staff equipment **\$75,000**
Staff hardware, software, and peripherals require timely upgrades and replacement in order to properly serve our clients. We are continuing a three-year replacement cycle.

Professional development and training **\$15,000**
The request supports training, developing and delivering conference presentations, and making journal submissions to document and share what we learn.

Online lecture and course development **\$20,000**
To continue our support and evaluation of online lecture development, student assistants will be hired to facilitate production, accessibility compliance, and collection of assessment data for new and existing online courses and resources. Licenses for tools must also be renewed and expanded. Assessment data to be collected will help determine feasibility of installing and implementing webcasting units in technology classrooms campus-wide.

Course conversion for transformative learning online **\$50,000**
In order to work directly with faculty to develop rich learning environments that incorporate multimedia and interactive elements that enhance the effectiveness of the instructional process and improve classroom efficiency, CIT will hire an instructional designer.

World Lecture Hall expansion **\$ 39,000**
The widely praised World Lecture Hall Web site needs ongoing funding for software tools to actively harvest and filter third-party sites. To maintain a rich and prestigious resource at an acceptable technological level, an additional full-time programmer position is needed to transform the production version of the site into a community with active ongoing involvement of the contributors.

Proposed New Ongoing Operations **\$225,000**

Blackboard Building Block support and development **\$100,000**
The new version of Blackboard is built on a core system that can be expanded and customized for UT Austin needs. CIT needs to purchase and build add-on Building Blocks. By licensing some Building Blocks from commercial vendors and other universities participating in an open-source development group, faculty and students would be able to quickly benefit from additional functionality. For custom modules that require in-house development, CIT requests two new Java/JSP skilled programmers.

Technology assessment support **\$50,000**
CIT will hire a specialist dedicated to assessment-specific support for faculty whose duties will include evaluating effectiveness of online courses and lectures, new and existing CIT/DIIA online resources, new multimedia instructional materials, ~FAST Tex projects, and providing IITAP entry consulting.

TA Teaching With Technology certification**\$25,000**

Supporting the expanded GSI training initiated by the Provost and the Dean of Graduate Studies, CIT will develop a series of TA workshops focused on teaching with instructional technologies. The series will lead to a certification in technology-enhanced teaching methods and create a pool of qualified TAs for large classes. A 1/2 FTE instructional designer will be required to offer the program three times a year.

Usability and accessibility compliance support**\$50,000**

Usability, quality assurance, and accessibility testing protocols will be applied to faculty projects, including ~FAST Tex, online lecture and courses, and new multimedia instructional materials. Funds will also compensate student testers and bring the added benefit of introducing usability testing techniques to students. CIT will hire a systems analyst dedicated to providing usability, quality assurance, and accessibility-specific support for faculty technology projects. Duties include providing consulting and training to UT faculty, staff, and students on accessibility compliance of multimedia assets.

One-Time Capital Expense Projects***\$120,000*****E-space teaching and learning lab****\$30,000**

Inspired by Stanford's Wallenberg Hall experiment, CIT desires to transform the multimedia lab into an experimental teaching lab. Two courses a year can be accommodated in the lab and will be designed by a team of faculty and instructional technologists to experiment with technology-enhanced learning in the small classroom setting. All lab furniture will be mobile and modular to allow a flexible physical setting. Depending on the teaching strategy, the lab can be adapted to facilitate group work, peer-to-peer collaboration, presentation, training, or traditional lecture. All classes will be investigated and research findings will be shared. The goal of the project is to discover which teaching strategies are locally applicable and to inform planning for purchases in the next 5–10 years.

Mobile Training and Production Lab**\$40,000**

Growth of existing programs such as IITAP, ~FAST Tex and summer training have necessitated the request for 16 laptops and a securable transport cart with wireless networking.

Server room modification, networking, hardware and storage**\$50,000**

CIT is currently at 100% network port use. The existing 48-port switches are seven years old, and subject to failure out of warranty with no existing backup available. Refurbishing existing capacity necessitates two Cisco 2950T switches. Two Cisco 3508 switches will be used to improve the efficiency of the existing network configuration to ease bandwidth bottlenecks between servers, workstations, and switches, and to allow for collaboration with remote location. CIT must purchase VXA tape media for long-term archiving of completed projects and an additional XRAID for media storage and short-term mirroring with backups. Soundproof cabinets for existing hardware and soundproofing for the server room are needed. Modification of the room by changing access will allow more efficient use of space, and reduce traffic in the lab area. In cooperation with TACC and ITS, the CIT will be supporting the UT Grid initiative with a six-node cluster in addition to developer support.

CIT INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES SUPPORTED BY 2003-04 ITAC FUNDS

CIT relies mainly on the ITF allocation to fund our instructional activities, support the multimedia lab, and fund a large portion of our additional recurring expenses. For 2003–2004, CIT received ITAC funding of \$522,846, which represents \$393,855 for ongoing operations and \$128,991 for one-time projects. ITAC helps to fund these programs and services:

~**FAST Tex**—Administer and monitor 61 faculty projects; currently in progress

IITAP—Conduct the eighth annual instructional technology incentive program for UT faculty involving call for proposals, administration, judging, and an open house at which all entrants are showcased and winners are announced

Multimedia lab—Provide the only high-end production facility open to all UT faculty and students for class projects; the lab is open 56 hours per week, staffed by manager, part-time technician, and part-time proctors

Courseware—Provide training, second-tier expert consulting, and administration for Web courseware tools

Technical evaluation—Conduct research and development on new and emerging technologies

Database production and maintenance—Build and maintain World Lecture Hall, EUREKA!, and in-house databases

Resource development—Create Web site resources, tutorials, lab guides, journal submissions, and conference presentations

Training—Conduct workshops, on-site and lab-based training sessions for faculty and classes

INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES SUPPORTED BY 2003-04 LOCAL/SPECIAL FUNDS

CIT does not receive special funding or local money for its operation. Rather, we provide students and faculty reliable services and direct access to online and multimedia learning and teaching technologies, and support and complement departments and colleges in their endeavors to promote innovation in instruction. We partner with colleges in the research and development of instructional technologies, and collaborate with other campus entities in implementing technology grants.

Note:

ITAC Expense and Funds Available Report for 2003–04 will be available by the end of the current fiscal year. For details about the CIT office and lab network status, lab operation, equipment and hosted activities, visit the CIT Web at <http://www.utexas.edu/academic/cit/services/lab/>.