

College of Communication
Information Technology Vision Plan
2004-2005 (Revisions to 2003-04 Vision Plan)

Per instructions from Neal E. Armstrong, Chair, Information Technology Advisory Committee, this represents an update to the 2003-04 Vision Plan (available at [http://www.utexas.edu/computer/itac/plans/2003-04/CoC IT Vision Plan 2003-04.pdf](http://www.utexas.edu/computer/itac/plans/2003-04/CoC_IT_Vision_Plan_2003-04.pdf)), plus requests for renewed funding for these initiatives. For further information, please contact Charles Soto, Information Technology Director for the College of Communication: 512-475-8661, csoto@mail.utexas.edu.

Revisions for 2004-2005

The College of Communication's funding model remains as before. Technology support staff levels have increased to 19 FTEs (http://communication.utexas.edu/college/orgchart/daman_chart1.html). We received an ITAC allocation of \$413,990, which was used to support the Communication Computer Center and the initiatives as described below.

The College has moved forward with each of the initiatives proposed above. This year, we continue our investment in College and University classrooms by continuing to enhance the audio/video and information capabilities within them. See http://communication.utexas.edu/room_resv/ for detailed information about our rooms and their capabilities.

The Mobile Computing Transition project has been a success. Building on years of experience in online teaching by Communication Studies, we have added Advertising courses in Public Relations. These combined uses support over xxx students every semester. In addition, these laptops have proven valuable for meeting ad hoc technology needs in all departments (workshop facilitation, research project participation, graduate and undergraduate seminars, etc.). There are still a few roadblocks that we are in the process of addressing:

- We have identified the ubiquitous availability of "WiFi" networks as a major catalyst for the use of mobile computers on campus. We are increasing our wireless network coverage (our contribution to the University's Public Network Access infrastructure) to include additional learning spaces, in addition to covering public spaces that our students and teaching assistants routinely make use of (exterior to the Jesse Jones Communication Center and UA9 buildings). This will result in a nearly 100% coverage of spaces the College currently inhabits.
- We have identified the lack of available power outlets and wired network ports in our classrooms and public spaces as having a negative impact on in-class mobile computer use. In response, we are proposing numerous enhancements to our classrooms, including the replacement of desk surfaces that now provide power and network ports. Rooms with less fixed furnishings will be equipped with "terminals" situated throughout the room, so power and network ports are within reach of whatever desk arrangement is best for that classroom. These modifications should be completed by the end of Summer 2004.

The Student Production and Classroom Experience Archive project began by the establishment of faculty and staff focus group to discuss the needs and evaluate potential solutions. We have identified a system in use at Dallas County's Cedar Valley College and have begun the purchasing process. Equipment should be installed over Summer 2004, with real-time video encoding and streaming to begin in earnest Fall 2004.

In order to take advantage of the volumes of digital audio/video sources being created for instruction, we have updated our Instructional Media Center's Playback Room (<http://communication.utexas.edu/IMC/>) to incorporate newer digital tape formats and streaming video playback systems. Physical renovation delays have put this off until late Spring 2004, but should be available before the bulk of our digital archive assets come online later this year.

Renewed Funding Requests (\$626,000)

We continue to request support for the operation of the Communication Computer Center (\$160,000). In addition, the 50 installed systems have reached the end of their 3-year lifespan. We request an additional \$98,000 to replace the computers and related systems that support the many thousands of patrons each year. This equipment will be in their 4th year by the time any approved funding is available.

To continue our updates to College and University (general purpose) classrooms, we request an additional \$157,000. This will allow us to build the power and network infrastructure necessary to support our Mobile Computing Transition in eleven classrooms. Functionality will be similar to that in the recently renovated GSB 3rd floor classrooms (GSB 3.104) and Executive Education Conference Room (GSB 5th).

Finally, for the Student Production and Classroom Experience Archive project, we are requesting \$211,000 to complete the installation of digital audio and video recording equipment into an additional 10 classrooms, student labs and conference-style rooms. At this point, practically every classroom lecture, presentation or event can be recorded for posterity and made available for review or discussion by currently enrolled students via network streaming.

The table below quickly summarizes our requests:

Initiative	Funding Request
Communication Computer Center operation (ITS support contract)	\$160,000
Replace computers in Communication Computer Center	\$98,000
Install power and network infrastructure in CMA classrooms	\$157,000
Install additional cameras and video encoding equipment in CMA classrooms	\$211,000
TOTAL	\$ 626,000