

Technology Vision Plan

2004-2005

College of Education
The University of Texas at Austin

Submitted by

The College of Education
The University of Texas at Austin



College of Education Technology Vision Plan Committee

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College of Education Technology Vision Plan 2004-2005

Summary of Requests

The College of Education (COE) has continued its steady advance toward the integration of computing and telecommunication technologies into all aspects of its academic, research, and service functions. The College's goal is to utilize these technologies to facilitate instruction, collaboration, and research, and to improve professional preparation in all components of its undergraduate and graduate programs. The College demonstrates its commitment to this goal by providing an educational environment enriched with high-speed data networks, numerous technology facilities, and the training and support necessary to make best use of these tools.

The Laptop Initiative for Future Educators (LIFE), which is now in its fourth semester and requires all students in the teacher education Professional Development Sequence to purchase an Apple iBook, represents a major step toward these technology goals, and continues to affect all facets of the College's planning for technology services and facilities. It has been a significant impetus for identifying new technology needs and for seizing opportunities to use technology in new ways. It has led to a vision of the College's technology future as one in which technology will be available in a wide variety of settings, such as campus classrooms and cooperative schools, and the use of laptops will be increasingly widespread.

The Vision Plan Committee has updated the projects in the College of Education Technology Vision Plan for 2004-2005 to reflect its current priorities based upon this long-range vision. The project to install projectors in classrooms is the top priority this year with a request to fund the outfitting of an additional 15 classrooms. Improvement of network services will continue with an upgrade of the wireless network proposed. Continued support of the LIFE program is also essential, so additional laptops for checkout and projectors for use in cooperative schools are requested. Providing more mobile laptop labs and new laptops for the Model Technology Classroom is also critical to the College's vision. Finally, a new project to create a Student Application Support Center has been added to address urgent student needs, and the 03-04 project to create a technology classroom has been revised to request the renovation of an existing technology classroom/lab.

The budget requested for 2004-2005 is **\$463,450**.

If there are questions concerning these projects or other information described in this report, please contact Dr. Paul Resta, Director, Learning Technology Center, College of Education (*resta@mail.utexas.edu*).

IT Projects Updated for 2004-2005

Installation of Permanent Projectors in Classrooms

The College of Education envisions its technology future as one in which the use of laptop computing is increasingly widespread. The number of faculty and students who own laptops continues to grow each year and the LIFE program has greatly accelerated this trend. Providing opportunities for laptop use in a variety of settings is therefore a top priority. The installation of projectors in all College classrooms will allow laptops to be used to facilitate instruction and student presentations without prior planning for projector reservation and delivery.

2003-2004

In the 2003-2004 project "Install Permanent Projectors in Classrooms," the College proposed installing ceiling-mounted projectors in twenty classrooms with a budget of \$196,600. 2003-2004 ITAC funding of approximately \$70,000 (the amount remaining of the allocation after funding "Construct New Network Closets/Rewire Data Network in Sánchez Building" and "Provide Laptop Computers for Field Experience Facilitators") will allow for the installation of projectors in seven classrooms, and the project is currently in progress.

Update for 2004-2005

Installation of projectors in classrooms is the College's top technology priority, with the ultimate goal of providing permanent projection capabilities in all College of Education classrooms. The College proposes outfitting an additional 15 classrooms with projectors in 2004-2005.

Budget Detail:

LCD Projectors (15)	\$78,000
Spare bulb (15)	\$5,250
Video Cables (15)	\$1,200
Wall hardware & installation (15)	\$3,000
A/C Power in Ceiling (15)	\$37,500
Fiber Optic Security (15)	\$22,500
2004-2005 Budget Total	\$147,450

Data Network Improvements

A fast, reliable, and secure data network, accessible both wired and wirelessly, is essential for the realization of all aspects of the College of Education's technology vision. The continual upgrade of the network's speed, bandwidth, and security has been a critical priority in recent years and continues to be for 2004-2005.

2003-2004

The 2003-2004 Vision Plan project "Construct New Network Closets and Rewire Data Network in Sánchez Building" is now underway. Four closets will be constructed to properly house rack-mounted networking equipment, and the building's data ports will then be rewired to the new closets. Rewiring will replace older, failing cables and a hodgepodge of termination technologies with a consistent infrastructure of Cat 5e cabling, providing a faster more secure data network. Although budgeted for \$121,000 in the 2003-2004 plan, costs were somewhat higher than originally expected. \$135,500 of the 2003-2004 ITAC Vision Plan funding is now budgeted toward the Fall completion of this project.

Update for 2004-2005

The College of Education wants to continue its progression of network improvements in 2004-2005 by upgrading the wireless network environment in the Sánchez Building, which is currently 11 Mbps (802.11b). The College proposes to upgrade its wireless access points to the faster 54 Mbps (802.11g). This will provide increased bandwidth for the growing number of LIFE students and others whose laptops have the Airport Extreme (802.11g) cards. Since 802.11g is backwards compatible, those with 802.11b cards will still have wireless capability at 11 Mbps.

Budget Detail:

Installation of Wireless Access Points (30)	\$30,000
2004-2005 Budget Total	\$30,000

Support of LIFE Program and Technology Utilization in Field Experiences

In the fall of 2002, the College of Education implemented a bold technology program for the professional development sequence of its teacher certification programs in which students would be required to have a laptop computer. The Laptop Initiative for Future Educators (LIFE) is a comprehensive effort to immerse future teachers in technology-rich environments so that they become competent in using technology learning tools in their instruction. There are many aspects of the successful growth of the LIFE program in the semesters since, and an excellent technology infrastructure is among the most critical. Along with projects that support the College's technology infrastructure as a whole for the benefit for all College users, projects that foster the LIFE program more directly are also critical to allow for its continued achievements and evolution.

2003-2004

The 2003-2004 project "Provide Laptop Computers for Field Experience Facilitators" supported the LIFE program by proposing a set of 40 laptops available for semester-long checkout to the field experience facilitators who supervise the classroom experience in area schools of apprentice teachers. This project has been completed with 2003-2004 ITAC funding of \$40,000 as originally budgeted. The laptops allow facilitators to mentor students with the same level of technology integration that is expected of students' coursework, and they have brought significant improvement to the LIFE program.

Update for 2004-2005

New needs face the LIFE program for 2004-2005. The College needs additional laptop computers for general short-term loan to support LIFE courses. The College of Education proposes providing 10 additional Apple iBook laptop computers for this purpose.

Another critical need is to increase the use of the laptops in LIFE students' apprentice teaching semester. Having projectors available in cooperating schools would allow the apprentice teachers to more easily use their laptops to practice the use of technology in instruction they have learned in methods courses. Currently, school projectors are generally unavailable to apprentice teachers, and it is difficult for them to schedule trips to campus to pickup and return loaner projectors during this busy semester. Many LIFE apprentice-teaching students have indicated a critical need for better access to projectors in their teaching experiences. The College proposes providing 100 projectors (one per school) to address this need.

Budget Detail:

Apple iBooks and Carrying Cases (10)	\$10,000
Epson PowerLite S1 Ultra Portable Projector (100)	\$87,000
2004-2005 Budget Total	\$97,000

Provide Student Application Support Center

In light of the College's continued and growing emphasis on the use of technology in all phases of instruction and research, the need for a new project beyond the update of 2003-2004 projects has been identified. Students increasingly need support in using the wide variety of software applications necessary to complete projects, research, and field experience activities. Currently there is no one resource or service entity that provides this help, and student must seek out a hodgepodge of assistance from a variety of sources. Students in the LIFE program in particular need to be able to quickly and easily find the help they need to complete technology-based assignments and coursework.

The College of Education proposes a pilot Student Application Support Center housed within its Learning Technology Center and staffed by technology-savvy students for 50 hours per week. This center will provide students drop-in help with applications they must use to complete coursework, and will also develop resources and training to support this primary function.

Budget Detail:

Renovation and furnishings	\$25,000
Equipment	\$7,000
1.25 FTE Student Staffing for one year	\$25,000
Materials and supplies	\$1000
2004-2005 Budget Total	\$58,000

Provide Mobile Laptop Computer Laboratories

The demand for the College of Education's computer laboratories cannot be met at times, especially for classes of more than 30 students. With wireless network access available throughout the Sánchez Building, any classroom has the potential to be a computer laboratory/classroom if a fleet of laptop computers is available. Mobile laptop computer labs also address the College's goal to make technology more available in general classrooms.

2003-2004

In 2003-2004 the College proposed "Provide Mobile Laptop Computer Laboratory" to acquire 35 laptop computers and two mobile laptop storage/recharge carts to create a mobile laptop computer lab/classroom. The two carts could be used together or separately, depending on class size, increasing the flexibility of the equipment's use. The project was budgeted at \$39,000. ITAC funding for 2003-2004 did not allow the College to carry out this project.

Update for 2004-2005

The 2004-2005 plan's emphasis on laptop computing has caused this project's priority to increase. The College of Education proposes enlarging this project to provide for 50 laptops in three storage/recharge carts to handle the growing need for laptop computing in College classrooms.

Budget Detail:

IBook Laptops (35)	\$50,000
Laptop Storage/Recharge Carts (2)	\$6000
2004-2005 Budget Total	\$56,000

Upgrade and Enhance Model Technology Classroom

The Model Technology Classroom continues to be in great demand, as it has since its completion in 2001. Its features allow instructors to model best practices and experiment with new instructional technology techniques. It is a priority of the College of Education keep this room in the forefront of instructional technology.

The laptops currently used in the Model Technology Classroom are older "clamshell" iBooks. Their lack of true VGA output and slower CPU speed make multimedia display and use of OS X difficult. Enhancements to the room's rear projection SmartBoard would expand its flexibility, especially a wireless option that would allow any student to connect their laptop directly to the SmartBoard. Overlays for the room's two plasma screens would allow them to also function as SmartBoards, extending their functionality as group breakout tools.

2003-2004

The 2003-2004 project "Upgrade and Enhance Model Technology Classroom" requested 25 12" PowerBooks with SuperDrives, a SmartBoard Wireless Option, and two SmartBoard overlays for plasma screens with a budget of \$69,000. Funding for 2003-2004 did not allow the College of Education to carry out this project.

Update for 2004-2005

Although 2004-2005 priorities are concentrated on providing projection in more classrooms, the Model Technology Classroom is still a vital part of the College's technology infrastructure and remains heavily used. The need to replace the aging "clamshell" iBooks is even more critical this year than last and aligns with the College's goal to support laptop computing. Therefore, the College of Education proposes scaling back this project to request only the replacement of the old laptops with new iBooks.

Budget Detail:

Apple iBooks (25)	\$25,000
2004-2005 Budget Total	\$25,000

Create Additional Technology Classroom

The College of Education's Model Technology Classroom, completed in large part with ITAC funding in 2001, has been a great success. The room is constantly in demand for semester-long courses, meetings, training sessions, and workshops. College faculty make effective use of the room's flexibly arranged seating and multimedia projection, and their requests to use the room must often be denied. The College needs an additional technology classroom to handle the demand. The room must also have a seating capacity of at least 35 to allow faculty with larger classes to use these technologies in their instruction.

2003-2004

In 2003-2004, the College proposed "Create Additional Technology Classroom" to construct another larger-capacity technology classroom in the Sánchez Building. The project detailed a room with electrical/data connections throughout a raised floor, flexibly arranged student desks, instructor multimedia console, and projector. ITAC funding for 2003-2004 did not allow the College to carry out this project.

Update for 2004-2005

For 2004-2005 the College of Education proposes to revamp this project for the renovation of an existing technology classroom/lab. SZB 316 is used extensively for UTeach Natural Sciences and graduate courses in Science and Math Education, but is too small for many of these classes. The renovation will allow for the larger classes the original proposal sought and will better serve the needs of the College. The renovation will be designed for use with the Mobile Laptop Computer Lab and provide cost savings since it will not require its own set of laptop computers.

Budget Detail:

Construction	\$30,000
Furnishings	\$20,000
2004-2005 Budget Total	\$50,000

Total Budget for All 2004-2005 Projects **\$463,450**