

VIRTUAL CONTENT DELIVERY TO ENHANCE STUDENT LEARNING

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ABSTRACT

Today's students learn differently than their professors as they embrace technology to facilitate their learning and comprehension of complex material. The use of virtual lectures to replace the talking "sage on the stage" not only enables students to learn the material at their convenience, it also frees up class time to incorporate more hands-on, interactive activities where students share their reactions, feelings and engage each other in real-time. The use of such multimedia presentations incorporating audio and/or video in the form of narrated PowerPoint slides, recorded audio and video lectures and streaming live video are what the students desire.

Virtual delivery technologies such as iTunesU allow for such student interaction and facilitate student learning by moving much of what used to be traditional lecture to an on-line podcast. iTunesU is an on-line service that uses Apple's iTunes Store to enable students to access whatever content the instructor wishes to place there in a format that students are already comfortable with and use on a regular basis. There are over 500 universities using iTunesU to deliver content to students.

This study will present the results of a student survey evaluating the implications of implementing iTunesU to deliver course content. The study includes qualitative research using in-depth interviews and focus groups, benchmarking peer schools, as well as an on-line survey distributed to students to gauge their views and reactions.

Initial results suggest favorable student reactions but highlight some areas of concern which will need to be addressed by administrators and faculty before iTunesU can be successfully implemented.