ACADEMIC TECHNOLOGY

Web Site: http://at.sfsu.edu/

The changing demographic of students and faculty report an increasingly desire to incorporate technology into the university experience. Academic Technology (AT), which resides within the Office of Academic Operations, supports and advances effective learning, teaching, scholarship, and community service with technology. Academic Technology:

- Actively collaborates to provide universally accessible solutions
- Researches, implements, promotes, and evaluates innovations and best practices
- Develops expertise and competencies through training, consultations, and professional development
- Designs, equips, maintains, and supports virtual and physical learning environments

There are 4 core areas of service within Academic Technology:

- **Teaching and Learning with Technology** provides SF State’s Learning Management System iLearn, ePortfolios, Course Streaming, web conferencing, and other online services, workshops, and institutes.
- **Media Distribution and Support** provides audiovisual equipment for teaching, support through training and troubleshooting, and access to more than 17,000 films and videos.
- **Learning Spaces** constructs and maintains the audiovisual equipment in all classrooms, meeting rooms, and lecture theaters across campus.
- **Creative Services** provides assistance with graphics, posters, photos, videoconferencing and teleconferencing.

Consultations and recommendations on technical specifications for grant proposals are available to the campus community.

Teaching and Learning with Technology

Today’s students need SF State to accommodate flexible schedules, alternative course locations, different learning preferences, various levels of background preparation, unequal access to technology, and much more. Teaching and Learning with Technology responds to emerging needs with new technologies and approaches that enable engaging teaching and learning experiences both in and out of the classroom.

Currently, Academic Technology leads and coordinates development, training, and support for several different online teaching and learning tools, including:

**iLearn**

(http://ilearn.sfsu.edu) is SF State’s supported learning management system, which allows faculty, students, staff, and community groups to share course or project materials, facilitate interaction opportunities, and assess performance in many ways. The home page lists the latest announcements and system status, useful tips and tricks for using iLearn, and links to help and technical support resources for both students and faculty.

**CourseStream**

(http://at.sfsu.edu/coursestream/) is an online environment which provides a variety of streaming media options to students enrolled in certain large classes. Students can view a live webcast, with synchronized PowerPoint slides and video recorded lecture, or review the archive in webcast or podcast format. Students can also search an entire semester of lectures by keyword and then jump right to a specific point in a video clip for easy review.

**ePortfolios**

(http://eportfolio.sfsu.edu) are electronic portfolios of student and faculty work, which provide new opportunities for assessing achievement and learning outcomes over time, as well as presenting an evolution of work in response to interactions with instructors, mentors, and classmates. ePortfolios are also being actively used by students to connect with and further their career development.

Other course technologies include DIVA (digital virtual media archive), LabSpace (virtual desktops and software applications for faculty researchers and students), Online Syllabus Tool, Clickers (Standardized Personal Response Systems), Turnitin.com (Academic Integrity software), WebConferencing, and other web-based technologies. AT’s help-desk support is now accessible via chat, text, email online@sfsu.edu, phone 415-405-5555 and drop-in in LIB 220.

Media and Equipment Distribution and Support

Academic Technology provides faculty with media and technical equipment to meet their classroom and other instructional purposes. The university media collection includes over 20,000 videotapes, DVDs, laserdiscs, CD-ROMs, films, and multimedia kits. Students can check out media for up to four hours, while faculty can check out media for longer periods. To consolidate and simplify purchasing processes at SF State, effective July 2012, the J. Paul Leonard Library will handle purchasing new media for the SF State Media Collection.

Technical equipment in support of instruction includes laptop computers, video projectors, multimedia integrated carts, slide projectors, audio and videotape recorders, video presentation carts, student response systems (clickers), and digital cameras. This equipment is available for faculty and staff checkout, though students can check out laptops from the library for up to four hours in the twenty-four hour Research Commons.

Although the Library provides the core technological services for students, AT also works with students by advising them at the distribution counter, answering their technical questions, and showing them various types of equipment. AT also shows students how to set up the equipment they want to use for their presentations. AT provides a valuable service to students when advising them to bring in their laptops to determine their compatibility with our LCD projectors and troubleshooting their problems before their presentations.

Learning Spaces

Academic Technology currently oversees and maintains approximately 300 enhanced classrooms, 6 enhanced meeting rooms, and 2 enhanced theaters. Academic Technology plans, designs, builds, installs, and maintains instructional electronic equipment throughout the campus. The campus television network, electronic classrooms, and mobile electronic teaching platforms are examples of services provided by this area. Academic Technology also provides consultations and recommendations to the campus community for audiovisual purchases and installations.

AT designs, installs, operates, and maintains all radio and television microwave links for the University, including C-band, Ku-band, and DBS satellite connections, an extensive campus cable television network,
and a series of teleconference facilities across the campus. Using these services, faculty experiment with new teaching strategies; participate with their classes in satellite-based seminars; and both originate and receive distance education programming from around the state, the nation, and the world.

**Creative Services**
Faculty use AT’s creative services to create media to meet their classroom instructional needs using a wide variety of resources, including digital video and photography, computerized graphics, and virtual environments. This media is used to develop self-teaching videotape modules, distance education on-line courses, multimedia packages, and Power Point classroom presentations. Continuing support for faculty using slides, overhead transparencies, and charts is available. Video streaming, video conferencing, and teleconferencing are also supported in this area.