Lessons worth keeping: What instructional innovations are here to stay?

Innovative instructional practices once considered new are now considered normal.

Panopto (UMD’s lecture capture software) had five times higher use (in terms of hours watched and unique users) in Fall 2021 compared to Fall 2019*. Trends such as this tell us that practices typically not employed before the pandemic, such as use of lecture capture software, may soon be viewed as routine or expected by both instructors and students. Top findings are visualized below.

Instructors are leveraging the affordances of academic technologies to lower barriers to communication.

UMD collectively spend 42 years in Zoom in Fall 2021, which is half as much as in Fall 2020 (91 years) when most instructional sessions were remote*.

The majority of instructors are using Zoom to connect with students outside of class.

73% of instructors using Zoom for office hours. 54% of instructors using Zoom for advising.

ELMS-Canvas is a central academic hub.

Online course management was common before the pandemic and became even more predominant throughout the pandemic. In Fall 2021, there were over 4,400 courses published in ELMS-Canvas, representing 89.5% of courses*.

95% of students and instructors want to continue online course management practices in ELMS-Canvas, such as posting assignments and grades, posting a syllabus, and using announcements.

“The continued use of ELMS-Canvas, Zoom, Panopto, and other technologies in the course has been great, as these tools provide accessibility, flexibility, and convenience to both students and faculty.”

- Graduate student (representative of 46 comments)

* Fall 2021 ATI Systems & Services Report
An increase in mixed instructional modalities (e.g., flipped and hybrid course designs) have created new opportunities for both students and instructors to meaningfully engage with traditional course content and learning artifacts. Survey findings also indicate that digital fluency is increasing for both students and instructors, with fewer instructors reporting helping students with technology issues and attending group trainings or workshops in Fall 2021 compared to previous remote learning semesters.

Since March 2020, digital fluency with ELMS-Canvas has increased for undergraduate students, graduate students, and instructors, with undergraduate students feeling the most confident in their ability to engage with ELMS-Canvas.

A quarter of students experienced mixed instructional modalities, which has increased since March 2020 for undergraduate students, graduate students, and instructors.

Informal resources, such as peers and instructors, are most common among students and instructors. One-third or less of instructors reported using formal resources, such as the DIT Service Desk.

Innovate for impact | What will you do in ‘22?

Survey administration and reporting conducted by teams within the Division of IT (Academic Technology Experience), Division of Student Affairs, Institutional Research, Planning, & Assessment, and the Teaching Learning Transformation Center