

An eBook for institutional
decision-makers

Higher education happens *here.*

Implementing key
technology solutions for
today's modern campus

ellucian



Contents

Introduction

- ❶ Mobility is no longer a luxury
- ❷ Give students control and keep them on track
- ❸ Ease the burden on faculty
- ❹ Protect the data
- ❺ Ease the burden on IT—move to the cloud
- ❻ Ellucian's tools for campus modernization

Conclusion

Introduction



Within the past decade, there have been monumental transformations in higher education.

Mobile devices have become ubiquitous, with the majority of students on campus depending on it for everything from communication to entertainment.

These students expect instant access to information, from anywhere. They want a more personalized experience, with applications and services geared toward their interests.

Universities and colleges now must provide a wider range of educational options that extend beyond the traditional classroom—from distance learning to competency-based education—in order to meet the demands of today’s students. Faculty, too, demand that their institutions provide the support they need to get their jobs done more quickly and efficiently and from anywhere.

And institutions must be ready to deploy new solutions with enhanced functionality as soon as it is available—which is driving the need to move applications to the cloud—while still protecting sensitive data. Recent events have shown that a serious data breach at a college or university can have long-lasting and expensive consequences.

Campuses all around the world are facing numerous challenges to provide a top-notch, modern education for their students. As long as institutions recognize the handful of key components outlined in this eBook, they will be able to easily meet those challenges. Fortunately, technology can lay the groundwork for institutions to build a successful campus to serve the needs of students, faculty and staff, today and in the future.

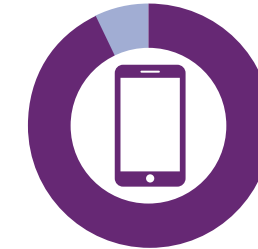
1 Mobility is no longer a luxury

The majority of students on campus today are carrying and using some form of device to connect to the Internet, mostly mobile phones. Among Millennials—those born roughly between the early 1980s and the early 2000s—some 62 percent of device owners are more likely to check social media updates rather than news first-thing in the morning.

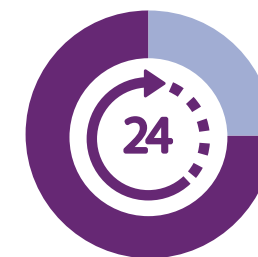
Today's students seek access to their information 24 hours a day, seven days a week. A modern institution of higher education must allow students to access data—from financial aid information to course catalogs—from a mobile device, anywhere on campus. Mobile registration for classes, in particular, has become an integral part of the mobile collegiate experience.

But a powerful mobile solution does more than benefit students. Increasingly, faculty and staff value the ability to access campus data beyond traditional workstations or desktop computers.

An effective mobile solution also has an important public relations component—it extends the institution's brand across those multiple platforms, reflecting your institution's unique values and experience, while creating a virtual campus.



93% of students feel their smartphones make their lives easier

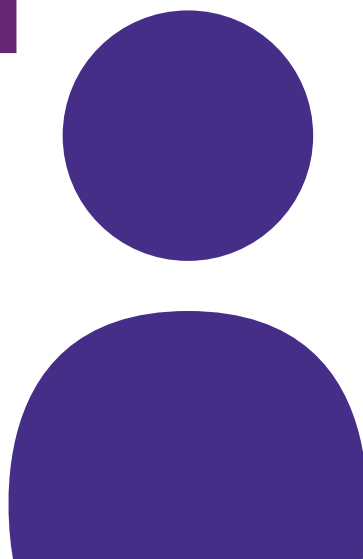
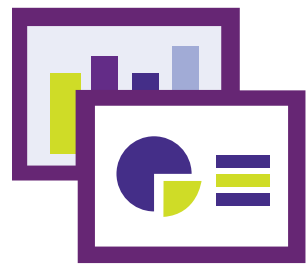


75% of students have their phones near them 24 hours a day

Sources: Pew Internet and American Life Project



2 Give students control and keep them on track



Attending college or a university can be a hectic experience for students. There are many processes, documents, and rules to follow—particularly when financial aid is involved. In the past, students might waste valuable time submitting incorrect forms or missing important deadlines. For some, the process might seem daunting and confusing, and could lead to disillusionment or, worse, students withdrawing from the institution.

A modern campus provides technology that allows students to access their own information—anytime, anywhere—with an intuitive interface that makes it easy to see what needs to be done.

Self-service software for financial aid allows a student to fill out the appropriate forms in a timely fashion, while keeping tabs on what has yet to be done. It will guide students through the process. And when students feel like they're in control, they are more likely to focus on academics rather than the process itself.

Self-service applications also free up time for staff to concentrate on other areas of their jobs. They provide an effective tool for staff to monitor a student's progress through the steps, and to provide assistance and intervention only when needed.

3 Ease the burden for faculty

Teaching. Research. Faculty at today's colleges and universities are under tremendous pressure. The last thing they want to contend with is cumbersome administrative duties. That's why it's incumbent upon any institution to ease the workload on faculty so they may concentrate on what matters most for student success: face time with students.

To help ease the burden for faculty, a modern institution should invest in technological solutions to make it easier to upload grades, keep track of student records, and administer classes.

The picture becomes more complicated when faculty are also teaching online courses. That makes it imperative for faculty to adopt and utilize the institution's learning management system.

Utilizing technological solutions to help faculty with difficult or redundant tasks will help them craft more creative and effective teaching techniques. Faculty who spend less time wrestling with complicated or confusing technology spend more time with students, creating a learning environment ripe for student success, whether online or in traditional classrooms.



4 Protect the data

Students, faculty, and staff depend on their institution to protect all of their sensitive data—from social security numbers and employee records to transcripts and institutional research. Keeping that data secure is absolutely critical. Failing to do so can have serious financial and public relations consequences for an institution.

Today's colleges and universities must implement a rigorous, comprehensive system that not only detects and thwarts data breaches—both on campus and off—but also prevents such attacks through high-level access controls, encryption and firewalls. Institutions must also address privacy and regulatory compliance requirements across the system.



Attacks on colleges and universities now account for some 17 percent of all data breaches, second only to the medical industry.

Sources: Privacy Rights Clearinghouse



5 Ease the burden on IT—move to the cloud

With time and budgets at a premium for higher education IT departments, it's paramount for an institution to find a way to help campus technology run more efficiently and cost effectively.

Cloud technology represents a significant advantage for institutions looking to modernize their campuses. As one of the most transformative and important advances in technology, the cloud allows institutions to concentrate on strategic priorities and other tasks, while applications and software are stored, maintained, and upgraded as-needed in the cloud.

A cost-effective transition to the cloud helps institutions avoid the costs, disruptions, and downtime associated with major IT implementations, while still granting the ability to control and manage their applications in a secure and reliable platform.

Migrating to the cloud allows an institution to focus its IT efforts where needed, freeing up money and resources. By migrating to the cloud, colleges and universities can also reap the benefits in security, backup, data recovery, and considerable savings when it comes time to implement new technologies.

⑥ Ellucian's tools for campus

Today's faculty, staff, and students expect their college or university to deliver a personalized educational experience, wherever they happen to be. We provide software, services, mobile, and cloud solutions designed to help any campus—anywhere in the world—thrive. Through our software and services, we reach more than 18 million students, delivering the solutions you need to foster student success. Ellucian provides the tools that any institution needs to become a modern college or university: mobile and portal, self-service, or cloud applications, in addition to security and faculty-oriented tools. Ellucian also provides consulting services to assist any institution in its efforts to exceed the expectations of students, faculty, and staff.



Conclusion

A truly remarkable college or university is more than classrooms, students, and faculty. A modern, dynamic campus also provides the tools and technology for its constituents to excel at teaching, learning, and working. It's a thriving community with the ability to leverage technology to help change the world. Institutions that fail to keep up with mobile or cloud technology will fall behind. Those that ignore technology designed to assist students and faculty, face the prospect of becoming inefficient campuses with poor reputations. And those that fail to secure data will risk considerable financial damage.

But technology solutions designed for higher education help institutions meet the demands of today's students, faculty and staff, while preparing for the challenges of the future. Modernizing campuses—wherever they are located—is a necessary investment toward innovation. When an institution updates its technological infrastructure, it fosters collaboration and builds a framework for student success.

About Ellucian

Ellucian helps education institutions thrive in an open and dynamic world.

We deliver a broad portfolio of technology solutions, developed in collaboration with a global education community, and provide strategic guidance to help education institutions of all kinds navigate change, achieve greater transparency, and drive efficiencies. More than 2,400 institutions in 40 countries around the world look to Ellucian for the ideas and insights that will move education forward, helping people everywhere discover their potential through learning.

To learn more, please visit www.ellucian.com/here.



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