Teaching With Technology

UAA #Pivot Workshop · 2020

What is it?

When selecting technology tools to facilitate learning, consider your learning goals, your students, support, costs, interaction, accessibility, privacy and more.

Why is it important?

All course decisions begin with the students and course learning outcomes in mind.

Consider who your students are and what support is available to them so technology tools don't hinder learning. You don't have the time (or sometimes the skills and interest) to help students with technology, so choose tools that are accessible and have high-quality support available.

Choose the teaching strategies you feel will best bridge the gap between where your students are and where you want them to be. Pick technology tools, not because they are cool or free, but because they will facilitate the practice of discussion, collaboration, or presentation activities that lead to meeting the course outcomes.

The Quality Matters rubric (based on national standards of best practice, research findings, and instructional design principles) includes **General Standard 6: Course technologies support learners' achievement of the course objectives or competencies**. Specific review standards 6.1 (tools support the learning objectives) and 6.2 (tools promote learner engagement and active learning) are essential components of a QM certified online or blended course.

How do I do it?

Think carefully before choosing a technology tool for your course. Bates' SECTIONS model recommends the following considerations:

- Who are your **students**? Can they use the tool?
- How **easy** is the tool to use for the instructor and students?
- What is the **cost and time** involved?
- Does it fit with the **teaching function**/instructional strategies used?
- Does it allow **interaction** among students or between instructor and students?

- What is the **organizational support** for the technology tool?
- Does it widen the **network** to include more people in the teaching and learning?
- Is it **secure** and does it protect student's privacy?

Quick Tips

- Know your students or give them a survey to determine their technology skills and access.
- Look for tools which further your teaching strategies and incorporate the science of learning (e.g., retrieval, memory encoding, interleaving, feedback, peer instruction).
- Provide structure. Give clear instructions for why and how the students are to use the tool and provide resources for support. Set expectations and use a rubric or checklist.
- Ideally, choose from UAA's free Core Tools supported by our UAA Technical Support Center and/or work for consistency within your department or program. Consult our list of accessibility and privacy policies when choosing or recommending tools.
- Give choices with specific criteria. For example, students can make their demonstration videos using Screencast-o-Matic, their phone, or a tool they have access to/experience with as long as the video file can be uploaded to Kaltura for sharing with the class.
- Is it the right tool for the job?
    - Use the SAMR model for technology integration as you consider your instructional strategies. Does the technology enhance or transform the student experience?
    - Can students work collaboratively using the tool? Can they work on it at the same time?
    - Is there a built-in way for you to provide private feedback?
    - Is there a public component that would allow sharing or consultation with professionals in the field?
    - Consider the end result. Are students creating content they are going to want or need after your course ends? (i.e., Can their finished product be saved or copied or used after they can no longer access the Blackboard course?)

Additional Resources

- Selecting Tools for Alternate Course Delivery (UAA AI&e)
- UAA Core Tools (UAA IT and AI&e)

- Comparing Collaboration Tools (UAA IT)
- Adapting Active Learning Strategies to Online (UAA AI&e)
- Quality Matters Rubric: Standards 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4 (tool alignment with outcomes, interaction, variety, and privacy) and 8.6 (accessibility)
- How to Make Smart Choices About Tech for Your Course (Miller) Chronicle of Higher Education
- Teaching in a Digital Age (Bates) ebook
- SAMR Model for Technology Integration focuses on how the technology will be used: substitution, augmentation, modification, or redefinition
- You're Already Harnessing the Science of Learning (You Just Don't Know It) (Agarwal) EdSurge