Technology Need Assessment Survey

Office of Institutional Research

April 2008
Introduction
The study was designed to:
- Assess students’ online accessibility,
- Assess the likelihood of students’ use of a wireless network,
- Assess students’ interest in technology-aided instruction,
- Assess students preferred method of receiving information.

Methods:
For the purposes of this study, an original survey was developed by representatives of the Academic Senate Technology Committee and the Office of Institutional Research. The survey assesses the technological capabilities of respondents, their reported likelihood of using a wireless system, and their interest in technologically aided instruction (see Appendix A for survey).

The survey was administered to a stratified sample of Spring 2008 students. In order to examine a sample that was representative of the diverse needs of Gavilan College students, sub-samples were taken from Morgan Hill, Hollister, Main Campus, and Distance education classes. A list of classes was randomly generated to sample approximately 10% of the students from the above categories. Surveys were sent out to the randomly selected course instructors for administration. The survey was available for Distance Education online.

Of the 524 survey sent out for administration, 345 returned completed surveys or completed the surveys online, which represents 66% of the surveys sent out and 6.6% of the current non-JPA, credit student population[*].

Results:
Table 1: Respondents reported primary access to the internet (n=345).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I don't access the internet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access in the community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access with home dial-up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access with home broadband</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access at work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access with cell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access with other</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Enrollment data from 3-17-08 report.
### Table 2: Respondents reported ease of access to the internet (n=345).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How easy is it to access a computer with internet off-campus?</th>
<th>Impossible</th>
<th>Difficult</th>
<th>Easy</th>
<th>Very easy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>16.0%</td>
<td>35.8%</td>
<td>45.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 3: Respondents reported access to laptop (n=345).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Do you have a laptop or easy access?</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>55.9%</td>
<td>44.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 4: Respondents reported likelihood of using a wireless system (n=345).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How likely would you be to use a wireless system?</th>
<th>Not likely</th>
<th>Kind of likely</th>
<th>Likely</th>
<th>Very Likely</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18.4%</td>
<td>12.0%</td>
<td>27.8%</td>
<td>41.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 5: Respondents reported preferred way of receiving College information (n=345).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Info via mail</th>
<th>17.4%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Info via email</td>
<td>62.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Info via phone</td>
<td>13.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Info via other</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 6: Respondents reported preference of computer aided classes (n=345).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How much do you prefer classes that use computers and the internet?</th>
<th>Not at all</th>
<th>A little</th>
<th>Much</th>
<th>Very much</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8.8%</td>
<td>35.3%</td>
<td>28.1%</td>
<td>27.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Summary:
While there was a relatively good response rate, (6.6% of the student population), respondents are only a slice of the overall student population. As with any survey, response rate affects the sample composition and therefore potentially the results. This effect must be considered when summarizing data.

The findings seem to support the notion that most students are able to access the internet off-campus. Also, most students reported that they would use a wireless system. A smaller proportion but still a majority of students reported access to a laptop and a preference toward technology-aided classes. Lastly, most students would prefer receiving information via email.

Student access:
The large majority of respondents, nearly 60%, reported that they had broadband access at home, while only 10% reported not accessing the internet. These findings were also supported by the results from an item asking students about their ease of internet access. Over 81% of respondents reported that they had “easy” or “very easy” access to the internet off-campus. While not all students, it appears that most students are able to access the internet off-campus.

Students’ likelihood of using a wireless system:
Most students report that they are likely to access the internet via an on-campus wireless system. Seventy percent of respondents reported that they were “likely” or “very likely” to use an on-campus wireless system. Additionally, 56% of students reported that they had easy access to a laptop.

Preferred information method of receipt:
According to a majority of participants, email is the most preferred method for receiving information from the College. Sixty-three percent of respondents reported email as the way they would most prefer to get information about the College. Clearly, this method is an underused way of getting out information to students about the College.

Preference for technology-aided classes:
A smaller proportion of the sample reported preferring classes that used the internet and computers. Fifty-six percent of respondents reported that they preferred these types of classes “much” or “very much.”
## Technology survey

Please help us learn more about your technology needs. Participation in this survey is voluntary and your decision of whether or not to participate will not affect your status as a student or your grade in this class. Your responses will be anonymous and the survey should take approximately 5 minutes. Thanks for your assistance.

### 1. When you are off-campus, how do you normally access the internet?
- [ ] I don’t
- [ ] With a computer at a library or community center
- [ ] With my home computer, using a dial-up modem
- [ ] With my home computer, using a cable, DSL, or satellite modem
- [ ] With my work computer
- [ ] With a cell phone/smart phone/PDA
- [ ] Other

### 2. How easy is it for you to access a computer off-campus?
- [ ] Impossible
- [ ] Difficult
- [ ] Easy
- [ ] Very easy

### 3. Do you have a laptop or easy access to a laptop?
- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

### 4. If wireless access (you could use your laptop to access the internet while on campus) was available on the Gavilan College/Morgan Hill/Hollister campuses, how likely would you be to use it:
- [ ] Not likely
- [ ] Kind of likely
- [ ] Likely
- [ ] Very likely
- [ ] I don’t know what that is

### 5. How much do you prefer classes that use computers and the internet?
- [ ] Not at all
- [ ] A little
- [ ] Much
- [ ] Very Much

### 6. How would you like to receive information from the college and your instructors:
- [ ] Via mail
- [ ] Via email
- [ ] Via phone
- [ ] Other

### Thanks

Thank you for your time.