



Yukon College Student Survey 2012

Student Use of Technology - Highlights

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December 21, 2012

Survey Sample

This year's survey was completed by 301 credit students, or 38% of all those enrolled in Fall 2012-13. The survey is administered in class, and therefore oversamples full-time students and undersamples part-time students relative to headcount. The target population is best thought of in terms of a snapshot of students sitting in classes during the month of November, rather than in terms of student headcounts.

Two-thirds of Yukon College students “like” or “love” new technologies

Twenty-eight percent of students surveyed say they “love” new technologies, while 39% “like” them. One-quarter (24%) “use them when I have to,” and 6% are “a little bit afraid of them.”

Most students have used computers to write reports, work with spreadsheets, and create presentations

More than nine out of ten students (93%) have used a computer to write reports, 62% have worked with spreadsheets, and 79% have used a computer to create presentations. As well, 41% have used a computer to create or edit video.

Most students like to figure out new technologies on their own, or get help from friends

When faced with learning new hardware, software, or technologies, 61% like to figure it out on their own, and 60% like to get help from friends or family. Not quite half (47%) like to take a class or workshop. One-third (33%) would use on-line tutorials and built-in help functions, while 31% would read the manual or guide. On-line discussion boards and user groups would be a resource of choice for 16% of students.

Nine out of ten students have a computer

Nine out of ten students (91%) have a computer, including 83% who own a laptop, netbook or ultrabook, and 34% with a desktop.

Three out of four students have cellphones

Half (50%) of students own a smartphone, while 26% have a basic cell phone without web access.

Half of students have MP3 players and gaming devices

Fifty-five percent of students own a portable MP3 player, and 46% have a gaming device such as an XBox or Playstation.

One out of three students has a tablet or e-reader

One-third (34%) of students have either a tablet (27%) or an e-reader (11%). All together, 9% of students have read textbooks on such a device, and 15% have used it to read journal articles, reports, or other supplementary readings for a class they were taking. Those who've read textbooks on an e-reader or tablet gave it mixed reviews, with 36% saying it's better in electronic form and 29% preferring traditional textbooks. Most (55%)

of those who'd used a tablet or e-reader for journal articles, reports and supplementary readings said it was better than reading them on paper, while only 15% preferred paper.

Almost half of students have used a mobile device in class

Almost half (47%) of students say they have used a mobile device in class, for something related to the class. Mostly, they use their devices to search for information, and to look up words. In and out of class, they use calendar apps to keep organized, and notes apps for class notes and reminders.

Half of students have taken a laptop, netbook, ultrabook, or tablet to class

Fifty-two percent of students have taken a laptop, netbook, ultrabook, or tablet to class, including 21% who do so "often." They use their laptops in class to take notes, do assignments, do research, and look up information.

Most, but not all, students have Internet access at home

Eighty-five percent of students have Internet access at home, and the median time spent online is between 10-19 hours per week.

Four out of five students are on Facebook

Within the previous thirty days, 83% of students said they had logged into Facebook. Meanwhile 12% had been on Twitter, 1% on MySpace, and 4% on LinkedIn. Most students (62%) log into social networks on a daily basis, but 15% never or rarely log in.

Almost one-quarter of students have "liked" the Yukon College Facebook page

Almost one-quarter (23%) of students say they have "liked" the Yukon College Facebook page, but only 2% follow the Yukon College Twitter feed. What students like most about the Facebook page is the regular updates on activities, events, and "what's happening" at the College. They also mentioned enjoying the photos and videos. To improve the page, they suggest updating it more actively with lots of pictures and events, and increasing student awareness that Yukon College is on Facebook.

Three out four students watch online videos, and one out of four has uploaded video

Almost one-quarter (24%) of students watch online videos on a daily basis through Youtube, Vimeo, or similar services. Another 51% watch videos anywhere from monthly to weekly. As well, 24% have uploaded a video to an online service like Youtube or Vimeo.

A minority of students are using cloud services like GoogleDocs and Dropbox

Within the previous thirty days, 32% of students said they had used GoogleDocs, and 17% had used Dropbox, SugarSync, SkyDrive, or a similar service.

Almost one-third of students have taken an online course, but most prefer face-to-face

Almost one-third (31%) of students say that they have taken a course that was totally online. Of those who had done so, 65% say “face-to-face is better than online,” versus 12% who say “online is better than face-to-face.” What students like about online courses is the ability to work at your own pace, and the flexibility in terms of schedule. They dislike the lack of immediate help and the lack of contact with the instructor, and can find the experience impersonal due to lack of contact with classmates. Some students also had difficulty finding the necessary self-discipline and motivation to succeed.

iPads, PowerPoint, clickers, Smartboards, and recorded lectures are popular with students

Among students who had ever taken a class that used these educational technologies, most liked their experiences with iPads in the classroom (71%), PowerPoint presentations (67%), clickers (62%), Smartboards (62%), and recorded lectures posted online for later viewing (55%). On the other hand, students who took classes that used wikis and chat rooms reported more negative than positive experiences.

Almost half of students use online tutorial videos

Almost half (46%) of students say they have used online tutorial videos from Khan Academy, iTunes U, Youtube, or another service to help them with a class they were taking.

Nine out of ten students use email to communicate with instructors

Ninety percent of students say they have used email to communicate with a teacher, instructor or professor, while 11% have used chat, 10% texting, and 7% Facebook or another social network.

Eighty-four percent of students say technology is used effectively in their courses at Yukon College

One-fifth (20%) of students “strongly agree” and 65% “agree” that technology is used effectively in their courses at Yukon College. This is similar to last year’s survey, when 86% agreed or strongly agreed.

Students want to see Yukon College making more use of iPads and MyYC

When asked what kinds of technologies we could be using more of at the College, students suggested integrating iPads and tablets into classes, and encouraging all instructors to make full use of MyYC.

Students do not like dealing with slow computers in labs and classrooms

When asked about technologies they wished they didn’t have to deal with at the College, students complained of very slow start-up times for computers in labs and classrooms.

Most students are regular users of MyYC

Almost one-fifth (18%) of students say they log into MyYC on a daily basis, while another one-third (36%) are weekly users. At this point, 13% say they have never logged into MyYC, down from 28% on last year's survey.

Students like being able to access course materials, submit assignments, and/or view their grades on MyYC. However, some students complained that not all instructors are using it consistently.

Students want to be able to do more online at Yukon College

Most students want to be able to apply (57%), register (64%), and pay tuition and fees (54%) online at Yukon College. As well, 68% want to be able to check their credits online to see if they are ready to graduate.

Through MyYC, 62% want to be able to access course materials such as lecture notes and readings, and 47% want to be able to watch video recordings of lectures posted for later viewing. Also, 64% want to be able to check their most up-to-date grades in courses that are in progress.

Students say that the website could be easier to navigate

When asked to recommend changes to the website, the most common student response was to make it easier to navigate.