Educational technology is not just for online education as it has the potential to fundamentally change the educational experience and offer significant improvements in both quality and productivity. Used to support both teaching and learning, technology infuses classrooms with digital learning tools such as computers and hand held devices; expands course offering experiences and learning materials; supports learning 24 hours a day, seven days a week; builds 21st century skills; increases student engagement and motivation; and accelerates learning.

Online learning opportunities can increase educational productivity for the traditional classroom teacher by accelerating the rate of learning; reducing costs associated with instructional materials or program delivery; and better utilizing teacher time.

Technology also has the power to transform teaching by ushering in a new model of connected teaching. This model links teachers to their students and to professional content, resources, and systems to help them improve their own instruction and personalize learning.

Educational Technology Services provides and supports a variety of tools for both the traditional classroom and online environment to assist you in delivering educational opportunities. ETS would like to help you build vibrant learning experiences for students not only in the online environment, but also the traditional setting as you prepare tomorrow’s workforce. Individual, departmental, or college-wide consultations are available upon request.

To ensure that you know what tools are available for your use, we are providing a list of tools currently supported by our office. Please check them out and let us know if we can assist you in the process of enhancing your UNA courses whether they are online or in the traditional classroom.

TOOL 1: Smart Classrooms

All technology installed in UNA classrooms is managed by Educational Technology Services. In an exciting development, as we are replacing old projectors in classrooms across campus, we are upgrading to High Definition projectors, and eventually all classrooms will be equipped with HD. Look forward to finding a jump in brightness, contrast, color reproduction, and resolution for your students’ viewing pleasure. Turning off the classroom lights will no longer be necessary! Contact Kris Robertson at krobertson@una.edu for additional information.
TOOL 2: Respondus Test Generation Software

Respondus 4.0 Test Generation Software is a tool for creating and managing exams that can be printed to paper or published directly to Blackboard, ANGEL, Desire2Learn, Pearson eCollege, Canvas, Moodle, and other learning systems. Exams can be created offline using a familiar Windows environment, or moved from one LMS to another. At UNA, Respondus is often used to import existing tests, move them from course to course, or to access publisher test banks. For additional information contact angelsupport@una.edu.

TOOL 3: Respondus Lockdown Browser

Respondus Lockdown Browser is a custom browser that locks down the online testing environment within Blackboard, ANGEL, Desire2Learn, Canvas, Moodle, and Sakai. When students use Respondus LockDown Browser they are unable to print, copy, go to another URL, or access other applications. When an assessment is started, students are locked into it until they submit it for grading. For additional information contact angelsupport@una.edu.

TOOL 4: Remote Proctor Now (RP Now)

Remote Proctor Now (RP Now) offers proctored testing. The Office of Distance Learning has partnered with Software Secure and is using their RPNow product to offer remote proctoring to students. Easy-to-use and requiring no separate software, RPNow provides security using students’ own computer and webcam. RPNow provides students with a high-speed internet connection and a computer the freedom of on-demand test taking, and eliminates the hassle of scheduling remote proctors, going to testing centers or commuting to campus. RPNow offers this service for a fee of $15 per exam. RPNow offers convenience without sacrificing integrity. Contact Bonnie Coats at bdcoats@una.edu for additional information.

TOOL 5: Sympodiums

Sympodiums are interactive pen displays that you can connect to any computer through USB and the external monitor (RGB) ports. They act as an external monitor, but also have inking functionality. The inking functionality allows you to write over slides with digital ink, save your notes, access any website or multimedia file, and project your work onto a large screen to give your audience a truly interactive experience. Sympodiums allow you to have the Tablet PC experience on any computer. Contact Kris Robertson at krrobertson@una.edu for additional information.

TOOL 6: Smart Boards

Smart Boards are interactive whiteboards which operate as part of a system that includes the interactive whiteboard, a computer, a projector and white board software. The components are connected wirelessly or via USB or serial cables. A projector connected to the computer displays the desktop image on the interactive whiteboard. The whiteboard accepts touch input from a finger, pen, or other solid object. Contact Kris Robertson at krrobertson@una.edu for additional information.
TOOL 7: Blackboard Collaborate

Blackboard Collaborate allows individuals to connect, communicate and collaborate through real-time or anytime virtual classrooms, offices and meeting spaces by creating engagement opportunities at an individual level to students and faculty wherever they are located. This software helps faculty deliver a more effective learning experience through online, blended, and mobile learning, and to engage more students and improve outcomes. Contact Brian Ford, jbford1@una.edu, or Kris Robertson, krrobertson@una.edu, for additional information.

TOOL 8: Camtasia

Camtasia is screen recording and video editing software that allows you to customize and edit your videos. Record on-screen activity, add imported media, create interactive content, and share high-quality, videos that your viewers can watch anytime, on nearly any device. Contact Brian Ford at jbford1@una.edu.

TOOL 9: Screencast.com

Screencast.com allows you to store and share your video content. You can post your captured image and videos to Angel, Facebook, Twitter, or your blog via the short URL or embed code Screencast.com gives you - saving time and avoiding the sharing runaround. Contact Brian Ford at jbford1@una.edu for additional information.

TOOL 10: ANGEL Learning

ANGEL Learning is UNA’s web-based Learning Management system used to deliver online, hybrid/blended, and traditional courses and course materials to students. Faculty can use Angel to distribute course materials, provide student access to grades, collect student files, provide discussion forums, and administer assessments (exams, quizzes, surveys). For additional information contact angelsupport@una.edu.

Note: Individual consultations are available to assist you with your Angel needs for additional information contact Bonnie Coats, bdc oats@una.edu; John McGee, jamc gee@una.edu; or Natasha Lindsey, nslindsey@una.edu.

Watch your e-mail for announcements of more workshops and webinars coming from ETS!