Purpose of the Classroom Technology Support Standard

The purpose of the Classroom Technology Standard is to support pedagogy by ensuring the deployment of cost-effective, secure, consistently high quality and manageable technologies used in physical classrooms. The standard enables reliable technology-enabled teaching and synchronous-learning environments, reduces total cost of ownership for individual departments through volume purchasing, and defines roles for effective collaboration and service to instructors and faculty.

Departments that have existing Classroom Technology systems or services are not required to adopt any specific technology system. However, the standard defines the minimal level of support and maintenance for classrooms that departments manage. At time of implementation or refreshing equipment, departments are advised to consider the following:

1) Costs (one-time and reoccurring) total cost of ownership, costs per instructor and per student
2) Support and Training – technical and instructor
3) Scalability to satisfy the requirements of the most users
4) Functionality – capabilities and limits of the network, hardware and software

What is Classroom Technology?

Classroom Technology refers to the tools used in the physical instructional environment, such as media, machines, and networking, and considers the underlying theoretical perspectives for their effective use. Technology includes an array of approaches, components and delivery methods, including electronic and mobile. Pedagogical principles drive the implementation of classroom technology to the end of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of instruction. Technology is often involved in the following ways in instruction:

- designing instruction (including all the phases of activity from needs assessment to evaluation)
- applying learning theory to classroom design
- selecting delivery systems and designing techniques for a given delivery system
- assessing or analyzing human characteristics or responses
- conducting process and product evaluation
- managing change and adopting innovations
- building teams and managing class projects
- collaborating with students and other faculty
- integrating instruction with other factors that influence human performance
- implementing delivery to reach learners when they need it
- using technology in support of the development and delivery of instruction

Examples of Supported Classroom Technology

Examples can be found in the UNM Information Technologies Department (UNM IT) and the Extended Learning service catalogs.


Extended Learning (EL):
Who is affected by the Classroom Technology Support Standard?

This Classroom Technology standard applies to any UNM organizational entity (i.e. branch, division, college, school, department, business unit, or other UNM affiliated organization), hereinafter referred to as a “department”, that intends to implement, or has implemented Classroom Technology. All departments that provide infrastructure and support for these physical environments need to adhere to the standard. All faculty, staff and students who teach in the classroom environments are affected by the standard.

Scope of the Classroom Technology Support Standard

The standard assures continuity, reliability, and sustainability of both services and resources in physical classrooms used by UNM faculty and staff instructors. The standard addresses all technology services, such as those listed below and all technologies used in a classroom setting.

- Audience Response Systems
- Audio Systems (Classrooms)
- Classroom Lecture Capture
- Classroom Workstations
- Classroom Technology Equipment Check Out
- Instructor Stations
- Computer Classrooms
- Projection Systems (Classrooms)
- Tech Assist (Classrooms)
- Test Scoring and Quizzes
- Instructor Evaluations
- Web Conferencing (Classrooms)
- Access to the UNM wired or wireless network

Excluded from the scope of this standard: Types of services outside the scope of this standard include

- Academic technology support for student-facing services in learning commons
- Virtual and asynchronous-learning classroom settings such as distance learning, learning management systems (such as UNM Learn, Learning Central, Campus Clarity, Moodle, among others)

Responsibilities

- Office of CIO: Ensure currency, correctness and appropriate periodic review of the standard by facilitating review and update of the standard as needed.
- Office of the Provost / Academic Affairs: Facilitate the development and publication of technical requirements and specifications for physical and virtual learning environments. (Learning Environments Design Guidelines (LEDG) referenced)
- Departments that support classrooms: Comply with the learning environment specifications below.

Process for Review of the Standard

The process to update the standard is defined and described on the Standards page of the CIO website at http://cio.unm.edu/standards/standards-development.html:

- Standard will be reviewed annually. Also, requests for review and update of the standard can be submitted to the Office of the CIO who facilitates the update. The CIO may independently, or upon request of the administration, also determine if review and update is appropriate for the standard.
Compliance

- This standard has been developed under and is subject to all UNM policies, some of which are cited in the References.
- The UNM Administration, Internal Audit, or UNM IT may determine the compliance of departmental support approaches with this standard.

Classroom Technology Standard Specifications

Equipment and Upgrades

- Comply with physical classroom equipment tiers specified by Learning Environments in the LEDG document in instructional spaces, as financially feasible.
- Document requirements and technology selections for discipline- or application-specific technology that is outside the LEDG specifications (such as in performance spaces, labs, etc.).
- Consider ADA compliance in the physical space, and address ADA technology requests as they become known, such as captioning or assisted listening.
- Ideally, upgrade technology during semester breaks or when a classroom is offline, so that instruction is not impacted. Document exceptions and obtain concurrence of faculty instructors using the classrooms.

Support

- Post technical support contact information in the classrooms.
- Document and publish/post usage policies or guidelines for users of these facilities, such as but not limited to powering down equipment or reporting technical issues.
- Provide information on obtaining appropriate permission to use the classrooms.
- Direct users to UNM policy regarding use, such as but not limited to: computer use, copyright, fair use, privacy and identity protection.
- Document, track and report on incidents and service requests.
- Make a best effort to achieve target 5-minute response time to faculty requests for help during an in-class physical session, in order to have minimal impact on instructor and student time.
- Provide triage scripts, work-arounds, hot spares and backup plans for timely resolution of technology issues.
- Provide training for faculty and instructors using classroom technology.
- Provide technical training for staff supporting the technologies.
- Invite and champion instructional faculty input into requirements for technology or support in classrooms.
- Collaborates with other service providers to limit duplication of effort.

Infrastructure

- Comply with the Data Center Standard for the physical security of servers.

Security

- Secure FERPA or personally identifiable data/information for access, use, transit or storage.

Classroom demise

- Obtain input from instructional faculty and technology support staff on the timing of demising or taking a classroom off-line.
- Follow UNM Property Management and Disposition of Equipment Policies cited below for asset management practices.

References


• University Counsel advises on Copyright & Fair Use: http://counsel.unm.edu/resources/copyright-matters.html

• Accessibility/ADA guidelines are offered by Accessibility Services for students http://as2.unm.edu/, and the Physical Plant https://iss.unm.edu/PCD/university-planning/facility-access-ada.html.

• FERPA. Guidance for complying with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) are provided by the Registrar: https://registrar.unm.edu/privacy-rights/ferpa.html.


• UNM IT Service Catalog: http://it.unm.edu/servicecatalog/asset_list.php?service=32&origin=servicelist

• Extended Learning Service Catalog, UNM Learn: http://newmedia.unm.edu/service-catalog/unm-learn.html.

• Resources concerning Classroom Technology:
  e. WICHE Consortium for Higher Education Technology (WCET). http://wcet.wiche.edu/

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Appendix A – Academic Technology Glossary