

## Assessment Update

Spring 2009

### Using Technology for Student Engagement and Assessment

#### Student Response Systems



Many instructors at UNCW are using Student Response Systems, i.e. clickers, to enhance student participation and engagement, including Rick Olsen and other faculty in Communications Studies, and Roger Lowery, Public and International Affairs, who presented a session on clickers at the National Technology and Social Science Conference in 2006. Clickers can be used to check for understanding, stimulate classroom discussion and application of concepts, and record formal quiz scores. A recent [study at the Ohio State University](#) found that physics students who used clickers regularly scored an average of 10% higher on the final exam, and at the University of Washington, student response systems were shown to increase attendance in large lecture classes.. [Read More...](#)

#### Classroom Computer Management Software



The Department of Mathematics and Statistics is exploring a number of product options for managing computer lab classrooms. Products such as [SMART Sync](#) and [LANDesk Classroom Manager](#) not only connect the lab computers, they provide a number of features that increase

student engagement and opportunities for formative classroom assessment. This technology can also be used in regular classrooms with wireless connectivity to student laptops. [Joyce and Schmidl \(2008\)](#) found that the final grade average was raised a full step, fewer students failed, and the range of scores was reduced in the introduction to computers classes at Central Carolina Community College that used classroom management software compared to classes that did not. [Read More...](#)

## ePortfolios



The Departments of English and Communication Studies have been using portfolios and eportfolios for many years, and this year they, along with the Watson School of Education, were selected to be part of the [Inter/national Coalition for Electronic Portfolio Research](#). In Spring 2009 the English Department's Professional Writing Option piloted a web-based product from [TaskStream](#) that helps students put together eportfolios. Research on portfolios and eportfolios indicates that learning is enhanced through the meta-cognitive steps required to assemble a portfolio and reflect on the learning experience. [Read More...](#)

**Assessment Update** is produced each semester for the benefit of the College of Arts and Sciences faculty. You can visit the [CAS Assessing Student Learning website](#) for other information and resources on student learning outcomes and assessment.

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