Chapter 7: ECAR Study of Undergraduate Students and Information Technology

Who takes it?
In 2013, 1.6 million students across participating colleges and universities were invited to respond. Students from 13 countries participated, resulting in 113,035 completed surveys. 992 Truman students responded, with a response rate of 18.7%, and an estimated margin of error of 2.95%.

When is it administered?
The survey has been administered annually since 2004, and 2012 was the first year Truman participated. The survey is administered during the spring semester.

What office administers it?
Truman sends invitations directly to students after first receiving permission from the institution and the Institutional Review Board to participate in the survey. Information Technology Services coordinates getting this permission and sends the participant list of emails to ECAR, and ECAR manages the survey process and data analysis.

Who originates the survey?
Educause Center for Analysis and Research (ECAR)

When are the results typically available?
Fall

What type of information is sought?
The survey seeks to understand how students use technology for educational purposes. It includes items about what technology students own, how they currently use technology, and their technology preferences.

From who are the results available?
The full report and other supporting materials is available from Educause, at
http://www.educause.edu/library/resources/ecar-study-undergraduate-students-and-information-technology-2013
and included in this Almanac.

Are the results available by college/school or discipline?
No

Are the results comparable to data of other universities?
The results are comparable by institutional Carnegie class and by All institutions. Truman received a benchmark report that includes 3 result sets: 1) data for Truman, 2) data for Masters Public institutions, and 3) data for All institutions.

Included here are select questions from the benchmarking report, followed by the full multi-institution results.

2.4 How important is each device for your academic success?

2.4 Importance of Device for Academic success	Smartphone	Laptop	Tablet or IPad	Dedicated Ereader
N/A; Don't use the device	297	11	632	709
	30.3%	1.10%	64.60%	72.90%
Not at all important	80	3	75	103
	8.2%	0.30%	7.70%	10.60%
Not very important	160	13	116	85
	16.3%	1.30%	11.80%	8.70%
Moderately important	219	46	86	53
	22.3%	4.60%	8.80%	5.40%
Very important	121	178	42	17
	12.3%	18.00%	4.30%	1.70%
Extremely important	104	740	28	6
	10.6%	74.70%	2.90%	0.60%
Total	981	991	979	973
	100.0%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Considering college experiences from the past year, how many of your instructors use the right kind of technology?

3.3d. Instructors: Use right kind of technology	Truman State University
None	17
	1.7%
Some	391
	39.7%
Most	479
	48.7%
All	97
	9.9%
Total	984
	100.0%

To what extent do you agree with the following statement: Technology helps me achieve my academic outcomes

4.8i. Tech: Helps me achieve my academic outcomes	Truman State University
Don't know	18
	1.8%
Strongly disagree	25
	2.6%
Somewhat disagree	64
	6.6%
Neither	209
	21.4%
Agree	469
	48.1%
Strongly agree	191
	19.6%
Total	976
	100.0%