eLearning Program

School of Education

📅 Today

At the University of Adelaide's School of Education, we hold the noble responsibility of preparing the next generation of South Australian teachers. We recognise that contemporary educators need sophisticated capabilities to leverage technologies for educational benefit. So in 2019 we introduced an eLearning Program that uses 1:1 iPad throughout the Bachelor of Teaching degree. The eLearning Program has transformed the way we deliver initial teacher education. We have revisited our curriculum, assessment design, school placements, co-curricular programs and teaching spaces in a way that foregrounds the role of technology for learning. Today, we are equipping our students with the skills and mindsets required for them to become contemporary and innovative teachers in school classrooms.

85%
APPLE TEACHER
At the School of Education, 85% of students and 100% of lecturers have achieved Apple Teacher status

+26%
DIGITAL CAPABILITIES
Students involved in the eLearning Program registered a 26% increase in their digital capabilities[1]

-63%
PRINTING
Students involved in the eLearning Program used only a third of the printing paper used by other students[1]

Demographics

685 students

14 lecturers
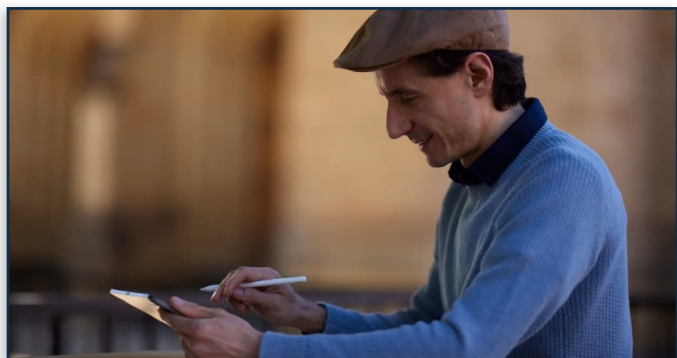
62 schools

108 school teachers

Resources

iPad and Apple Pencil for all students and lecturers

Apple TV in all SoE teaching spaces

Green room and lightboard studios for video recording

Core app suite for all lecturers and students

University subsidy for student iPad purchases

👁 Vision

We aspire to modernise and enrich the learning of our students through the relevant and skilful use of contemporary technologies. In turn we aim to enrich the learning of the schoolchildren with whom our graduate teachers will eventually work. We achieve this through our eLearning Program, the 2020/2021 report of which can be found in Links. The eLearning Program:

- [Leadership] applies to the whole Bachelor of Teaching degree and is therefore influential in shaping South Australia's teachers
- [Culture] supports lecturers and students with comprehensive face-to-face and online learning resources and through co-curricular activities, competitions and awards
- [Capacity] raises expectations of how students and lecturers use technology for learning, research and teaching practice
- [Community] enhances students' use of technology on school placement and welcomes contributions of industry experts

👫 Learning

Student Learning

Under the auspices of the eLearning Program, we reviewed each course in the Bachelor of Teaching degree and modernised resources, content and assessments therein. The modified assessments guide students to create multimodal content, collaborate digitally and become proficient at a range of workflows useful for education. The new assessments make incrementally more sophisticated demands on students' digital capabilities.

To assist students in meeting these challenges, a series of face-to-face and online workshops are offered to students under the auspices of the eLearning Program. These enable students to achieve Apple Teacher status and to learn topics such as accessibility, creativity and augmented reality among others.

Our students have engaged with the broader community to further explore the potential of educational technologies. For instance, students joined Apple Distinguished Educators on university campus to learn from examples of best classroom practice. Students also assisted their mentor-teachers on school placement in achieving Apple Teacher status.[3]

Teaching

All lecturers at the School of Education participate in the eLearning Program and have modernised aspects of their teaching practice. Academics are using iPad to: provide multimodal feedback of student work; construct interactive branched scenarios in Keynote; screen-record lectures and edit videos through iMovie; apply best-practice design principles to slide decks for presentations and more. All School of Education lecturers have achieved Apple Teacher status.

Environment

The School of Education teaching spaces have been fitted with Apple TV for wireless projection and agile, mobile teaching. Green screen and lightboard studios are used with iPad for presentation recording. iPad interacts seamlessly with the university's LMS, allowing lecturers to operate flexibly and remotely.

🏆 Success

From its inception, the eLearning Program was underpinned by clear KPIs, against which progress has been measured since 2019. As highlighted in the 2020/21 report (see Links) 5 out of 7 KPIs have been achieved in full. Of the remaining two KPIs, 85% of our students have secured Apple Teacher status and 50% of our students engage in placements in schools that use Apple technologies, collaborating with 108 teachers.

A rigorous research regime has been tracking the impact of the eLearning Program on a range of measures, including students' digital capabilities and printing quantities. Students participating in the eLearning Program self-reported a 26% increase in digital capabilities and registered a reduction in printing by two thirds, compared to a non-participating cohort. This research has been published as a chapter in an academic peer-reviewed book (available within Links)[1].

➡ What's next

Now that the eLearning Program is an ongoing and sustainable feature of the Bachelor of Teaching degree, the School of Education is focusing on furthering the extent and quality of its use of Apple technologies. For instance, new 2021 initiatives under the auspices of the eLearning Program include:

- an online professional development course for school teachers on best-practice use of technology for learning has been launched
- the School of Education is partnering with Payinthi College for a research partnership focused on the use of iPad for learning

🔗 Links

1. Research chapter on impact of eLearning Program
2. eLearning Program Report
3. Article from The Advertiser on eLearning Program placements