

MUSE 346 iPad Pilot: Results

Alexander Roessner, IT Classroom Technologies
The University of New Mexico

Introduction

During the Fall 2013 Semester, about ten (10) students in Robin Giebelhausen's *Teaching in Elementary Schools* (MUSE 346) were given the opportunity to use an iPad for the semester (provided by IT Academic Technologies).

Benefits

The iPads were setup and checked out to each student with Apple Configurator¹. This program allowed us to lock down certain parts of the iPad for the security of device and the student. Apple Configurator also allowed us to preload apps as required by the instructor. When used in the classroom, these iPads would also be able to connect to an AppleTV, so the instructor and student would be able to quickly share content.

“These young teachers are learning the most efficient teaching strategies because they have the best teaching tool.”

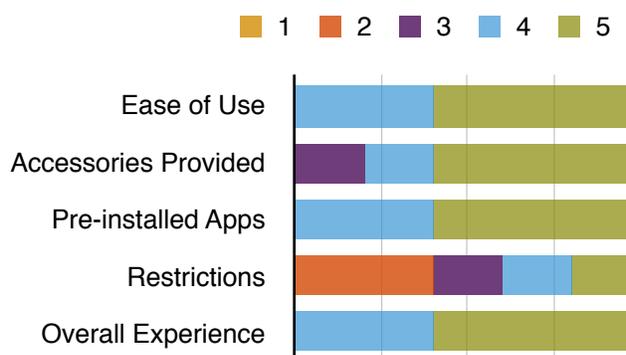
- Robin Giebelhausen, Instructor

Feedback

After the semester concluded, the students and instructor were encouraged to provide their feedback regarding the iPad pilot. The

experience was overwhelmingly positive as can be seen in the chart below.

The table below shows how students rated their satisfaction with their iPads in a few areas (1 being very unsatisfied, 5 being very satisfied).



For all areas (except one), students ranked as very satisfied. The area titled “Restrictions” has been resolved quickly with Apple Configurator. One of the top student comments was about the time until the screen locked (about 1 minute) and the ability to connect the iPad to their computers to offload files. The short lockout timer, while more secure, made sharing things to the AppleTV strenuous. Both of these issues have been resolved with iOS 7 while still allowing the iPad to be supervised by an administrator.

“The course was well suited to the iPad and often made completing assignments both easy and fun.”

- Student, MUSE 346

The instructor was also very pleased with the iPads in her course. The cameras allowed her

¹ <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/apple-configurator/id434433123>

students a lightweight all-in-one package for their students to carry all their materials. The instructor did not feel pressured to ask the students to bring the devices to class, as they weigh a fraction of what a textbook would. Also, with the iPad's camera, students could record their student peer teaching and show off those videos on the AppleTV in the classroom.

this direction and will be demoing the devices to several faculty.

“The iPads are ideal for music education classes. It is my hope to expand this program to all of upper division music education.”

- Robin Gielbelhausen, Instructor

Looking Forward

Having iPads available for students and for checkout also provides a more dynamic education experience. Devices are light, and easier to carry in lieu of a laptop and textbook, and any apps used often sync to iCloud or Dropbox so fear of data loss is not an issue. Also, using iPads provide a way for instructors to teach more up-to-date information given the ease to update the OS and apps.

After a successful, small pilot in MUSE 346, the iPads will be checked out again for the course during the Spring 2014 semester, with a few left overs to check out to any interested parties. The instructor is also interested in having the entire music department move in