

UIT EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

University Information Technology (UIT) delivers to the Tufts community information technologies that facilitate teaching, learning, research, administration, and outreach. We offer technical leadership and services to all our customers with a commitment to synchronized efforts and collaborative problem solving.

UIT Academic Technology enables the university and its diverse academic communities to realize their vast potential in teaching, learning, and research through the innovative design and meaningful integration of technology to meet broad and local goals.

Educational Technology Consulting Services

- **Educational Goals Consulting:** UIT Academic Technology consults with faculty across the university on educational goals and challenges, helping instructors to identify new ways of approaching a challenge and meaningful ways of integrating technology to meet their goals. AT educational technology specialists provide information about contemporary technologies that can be used to support and enhance education across the diverse teaching, learning, assessment, and collaboration contexts at Tufts, and provide guidance on using the most common tools, such as Blackboard, Spark, TUSK, and VUE, effectively in each context.
- **Course & Curriculum Design Support:** In addition to consulting with faculty on particular instructional goals, AT provides dedicated support for course design or redesign projects involving technology integration, as well as for Tufts Schools academic programs engaged in curriculum review or redesign. Instructional design services include dialogue with clients to understand goals, guidance and support for the curriculum design process, and informed recommendations to assist with decisions about new approaches to current challenges.
- **Technology Consultation and Planning:** AT assists faculty and departments with research, information, and recommendations concerning appropriate technologies for education, assessment, and collaboration. We also provide project leadership for university IT projects.

Faculty Development and Outreach

- **Year-round Programming:** UIT Academic Technology provides year-round faculty development programs, including our annual Summer Institute, Health Sciences Mini-Symposium, and Veterinary Medicine Mini-Symposium. In addition to the larger institute and symposia, UIT Academic Technology plans and hosts events on the Boston, Grafton, and Medford campuses throughout the year, including the UIT Forum for Teaching, Learning, and Research and tailored presentations and workshops for Tufts departments and communities. AT participates on the University Committee for Teaching and Faculty Development (UCTFD), which sponsors the annual Tufts University Teaching Conference.
- **Communicating Innovation:** AT publishes a number of resources for the Tufts educational community, including the UIT Encyclopedia for Teaching with Technology: <http://encyclopedia.uit.tufts.edu/> and TLR Innovations e-newsletter: <http://go.tufts.edu/tlr>.
- **Faculty IT Liaison Program:** AT leads the Faculty IT Liaison Program, connecting UIT with faculty in academic departments to share information regularly about UIT services and to learn about departmental visions and goals for technology: <http://go.tufts.edu/itliaison>.

Tools for Teaching, Learning, and Collaboration

Research, Design & Development of Educational Technologies: UIT Academic Technology continuously investigates how Tufts faculty and students can excel in teaching and learning by leveraging new technologies. AT includes a team of expert user-interface designers and learning technology developers who work with Tufts faculty, students, and staff to produce useful tools for teaching, learning, collaboration, and research across the university. In addition to the pilot and production tools above, the team continuously explores emerging technologies to support educational goals and engages in partnerships with Tufts clients to produce and evaluate experimental new educational tools. Some educational tools become pilot and production services for the Tufts University community, including the following:

- **Classroom Response System (Clickers):** UIT Academic Technology maintains a set of clickers and receivers that faculty can borrow as they're experimenting for the first time with classroom response systems. We provide orientation to the i>clicker software and to effective practices in formulating questions and integrating clickers into a course. We provide Tufts Schools, departments, and individual faculty with information about ordering i>clicker for use in their programs. <http://go.tufts.edu/clickers>
- **Spark:** UIT Academic Technology offers a suite of Web 2.0 tools for communication and collaboration across Tufts University. Spark 2.0 tools include Wikis, Blogs, Podcast Publishing, Forums, Media Markups for web-based video annotation, Google Map collections, and Web Meetings. <http://spark.uit.tufts.edu/>
- **Tufts Digital Repository and Tufts Digital Library:** In partnership with Digital Collections & Archives (DCA), UIT Academic Technology designs, develops, and supports the Tufts Digital Repository & Digital Library services. The University's Institutional Repository is one facet of the Tufts Digital Repository. Faculty may choose to deposit their research collections in the Tufts Institutional Repository in order to ensure that these collections will be stewarded into the future and in order to make them available to a broad intellectual community. <http://dl.tufts.edu/>
- **VUE (Visual Understanding Environment):** Providing faculty and students with flexible tools to successfully integrate digital resources into their teaching and learning is the primary focus of the VUE project supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. VUE leverages the open and extensible development platform of the Open Knowledge Initiative and the Fedora digital repository system to develop a visual environment for structuring, presenting and sharing digital information. Through VUE, faculty and students use a visual concept-mapping interface to design customized, resource-linked semantic networks that can be viewed, shared and edited online. <http://vue.tufts.edu/>
- **Web Conferencing (Adobe Connect):** A web conference is an online environment allowing people to conduct discussions, share presentations and collaborate with geographically dispersed participants. This web conferencing tool is accessible via Spark as WebMeetings. https://spark.uit.tufts.edu/meeting_home2.jsp