

There's a Revolution *in the* Bay Path Classroom

Enter a Bay Path classroom of first-year students and there are desks and tables heaped with coffee mugs, backpacks, an occasional book, and an iPad in the hands of each student.

The professor stands in front of the classroom and doesn't point to a blackboard, but rather taps on the iPad and a screen in the front of the class pops up with a question posed on a recent reading assignment for a textbook available only online. Each student types in an answer on their iPad. Using a special app for mobile devices, the professor asks for answers, and a student's response—almost magically—appears on the screen. The student leads the discussion and the conversation—the real learning—begins. Welcome to the new classroom revolution.

Over a year ago, Bay Path received a Title III grant from the U.S. Department of Education that provided the funding resources for this radical shift in the classroom. In September 2013, the initiative was rolled out, and all incoming first-year students received an iPad from the College. But the work to put this into place began months before.

"Fundamentally, we are dramatically changing how students learn in a very intentional, very focused way," states Dr. Charlotte Briggs, Director of Teaching and Learning Support Services. "For example, in the past students may have listened to a lecture and taken notes, but now with the iPad they can listen to pre-recordings of a lecture by the professor, perhaps even replaying certain sections to familiarize themselves with a concept, and then come to class and engage in active learning. What does this mean? When students are engaged in active learning they have a deeper understanding, and, over time, they retain much of the material. Lecturing, by and large, has proven to be the least effective way to teach in the classroom. This is just one of the conditions of learning we are changing to teach the digitally-savvy students of today."

Under Dr. Briggs' leadership, the faculty course re-design team has been carefully adapting and modifying 30 gateway courses to integrate the iPad, learning methods, and outcomes. She points out: "The iPad is a tool. The real power lies in the interaction it supports between the professor and students, and among students themselves. The iPad is a rich toolkit that offers myriad opportunities for active learning and collaboration, in and out of the classroom."

This classroom revolution and the integration of new technology must include professional development, and, in fact, faculty themselves attend ongoing classes to learn about new applications, techniques, and best practices that ensure the success of the iPad in the classroom.

"In my thirty-plus years in higher education, I have never been as excited about something as I am about this curricular redesign effort," adds Dr. Melissa Morriss-Olson, Provost, and a leading force behind the new academic initiatives. "Through the work that our faculty are engaged in thanks to the Title III grant, we are redefining what it means to teach and learn in the college classroom. Our faculty are applying best practices and principles about how people learn to create highly engaging, technologically infused experiences that are individualized to meet the unique learning needs of each student. Using cutting edge teaching tools such as the flipped classroom and the iPad, our faculty are helping our students learn more deeply and in ways that will serve them quite well for the 21st century workplace."

In the Blake Student Commons, a group of students are gathered, their heads together as they pore over not textbooks, but iPads. One is looking for a video on the Internet about a current event, another is searching for sources to cite in the presentation and is reading *The New York Times*, and the third is looking for a new iPad app to present her material. Yet another has her iPad propped up as she Skypes a group member who is in another location. Learning is now portable, accessible, and truly revolutionary.

For more information on the Revolution in the Bay Path classroom and the iPad, go to www.baypath.edulipad

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The Rise of the iPad

Since it was first introduced on April 3, 2010, sales of the iPad have increased 20-fold. In the first three months of 2013, over 19.4 million units were purchased. By the end of 2013, the iPad will be one of the fastest growing technological innovations in history.

