

## University of Virginia

HP Compaq Tablet PCs transform college classes in pilot study

"Students loved the technology and found it very easy to use. They could take the HP Compaq Tablet PCs to class, use them to take notes and reinforce learning later, and because the computers were truly portable, learning took place anytime, anywhere."  
-- Dr. Charles Grisham, Professor of Chemistry and Chief Technology Officer, School of Arts & Sciences, University of Virginia

In the past generation, technology has transformed higher education. The vast majority of college students bring computers to campus, and many of them are adept users. Professors often make a course syllabus available online; some go so far as to put up a course website with required readings and contact information.

But for all of its progress, technology still hasn't fully penetrated the arena where so much of learning takes place: the college classroom.

So the University of Virginia participated in a pilot study — with products from HP, Microsoft and Thomson Learning — designed to put truly portable technology into the hands of students, and to facilitate its use in learning.

The purpose: to identify what works and what doesn't, and provide a template for further development.

The study involved just a few courses — biochemistry, statistics, psychology and astronomy — and sought to determine the overall feasibility of incorporating new mobile computing technology and resources into the college classroom. It was a major success on all dimensions.

### Challenges

- Bring learning benefits of technology into the college classroom.
- Enable technology-based study anytime, anywhere.

### Solution

- Provide truly mobile PC technology with small, light HP Compaq Tablet PCs and powerful wireless access.
- Create specialised learning tools that take advantage of mobile computing capability.
- Encourage faculty to integrate technology into their teaching.

### Results

- As many as 95 percent of students in a given course reported using an HP Compaq Tablet PC in and out of class.
- Up to 80 percent of students reported increased interest in their courses.
- Up to 82 percent reported increased understanding due to the use of mobile computing.
- Up to 72 percent of students reported the ability to learn more in less time.

- Electronic versions of instructor lecture notes on the HP Compaq Tablet PC improved students' ability to focus on the classroom lecture, and to supplement the teachers' notes with their own.