School Environment Evaluation of
Horsin' Around U
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The following is a School Evaluation Summary for Horsin' Around U according to the Technology Maturity Model Benchmarks. This model analyzes 19 different categories organized into five different organizational filters: Administrative, Curricular, Support, Connectivity, and Innovation. In this summary, Horsin' Around U was evaluated in each of the 19 categories based on one of four classifications: emergent, islands, integrated, and intelligent. This summary explains the overall rating received by Horsin' Around U based upon observations and evidence.

Demographics

Horsin' Around U is a public university established in 1974 located in southern Idaho. It currently holds a $71 million endowment, maintains an academic faculty of 1,184 and serves 17,349 undergraduate students and 2,644 graduate students. The U maintains 8 different colleges that encompass 190 different fields of study. The numbers and types of degrees offered include: 9 doctoral degrees, 13 graduate certificates, 73 master's degrees, 100 baccalaureate degrees, and 7 associates degrees. The majority of students are white at 80.3%, followed by 6.3% Hispanic, 3.5% Asian-American, 1.9% African-American, 1.1% Native American and 0.4% Pacific Islander.

Administrative

- **Policy**
    - **Behavioral:** Intelligent
    - **Resource/Infrastructure:** Intelligent

    See comments below.
- **Planning**
    - **Behavioral:** Intelligent
    - **Resource/Infrastructure:** Intelligent

    See comments below.
- **Budget**
    - **Behavioral:** Intelligent
    - **Resource/Infrastructure:** Intelligent

    See comments below.
- **Administrative Information**
    - **Behavioral:** Intelligent
    - **Resource/Infrastructure:** Intelligent

At Horsin' Around U, the University IT Advisory Committee (UITAC) is in place to advance the goals consistent with the U's strategic plan and to articulate and prioritize the technology needs of the U. The committee also coordinates technology development throughout the U. This committee includes the Associate Vice-President of Information Technology (AVPIT) , all U Vice-Presidents, a representative from all colleges and major departments, a Dean's Council representative, a faculty senate representative, a student representative, Office of Information Technology (OIT) directors, and information technology (IT) professionals representing various colleges, organizations, and departments, both centralized and decentralized, to Horsin' Around

U.

The UITAC meets monthly and is chaired by the AVPIT. The UITAC approves or comments on all new technology projects or initiatives for the U that exceed a cost of $100,000 over 3 years. The final approval is provided by the Information Technology Governance Council (ITGC).

Curricular
- **Electronic Information**
  - **Behavioral:** Intelligent
  - **Resource/Infrastructure:** Intelligent

  Students and staff access a tremendous amount of technology, both hardware and software on a daily basis. Each student and staff member is provided their own U maintained email account, access to Blackboard, and wireless internet supported by the U.
- **Assessment**
  - **Behavioral:** Integrated

  Most of the academic staff utilize Blackboard for course work evaluation and self-assessment. However, faculty usage of Blackboard is not a U requirement. Each academic staff member must generate their own Blackboard site for their own course(s). There are a small number of staff members who do not use Blackboard at all or to its fullest capabilities.

  The U also offers online testing at the Academic Testing Center. This center offers proctored exams for online tests. Though this center gets a lot of use, it is not utilized by the whole campus.
  - **Resource/Infrastructure:** Intelligent

  All of the 8 colleges at the U have access to Blackboard and the Academic Testing Center.
- **Currilular Integration**
  - **Behavioral:** Intelligent
  - **Resource/Infrastructure:** Intelligent

  See comments below.
- **Teacher Use**
  - **Behavioral:** Integrated
  - **Resource/Infrastructure:** Intelligent

The academic staff has access to a tremendous amount of technology, both hardware and software. Academic Technologies offers assistance and support to staff members on a variety of technological platforms. Currently, Academic Technologies is promoting eLearning Quality Instruction Programs for course redesign;; computer-supported collaborative learning; wikis, blogs, podcasts, and social-networking tools; classroom-capture technology; and student-response systems ("clickers"). Much of the staff does integrate this technology into their curriculum. However, several do not use any of this technology.
- **Student Use**
  - **Behavioral:** Intelligent
  - **Resource/Infrastructure:** Intelligent

Student use technology to schedule and register for classes, for email, to complete assignments, take notes in class, and sometimes to take exams and quizzes. In the majority of situations, students would not be able to meet outcomes without the use of technology.

Support

- **Stakeholder Involvement**
  - **Behavioral:** Intelligent
  - **Resource/Infrastructure:** Intelligent

  See "Administrative" comments.
- **Administrative Support**
  - **Behavioral:** Intelligent
  - **Resource/Infrastructure:** Intelligent

  See "Administrative" comments.
- **Training:**
  - **Behavioral:** Integrated
  - **Resource/Infrastructure:** Intelligent

  Academic Technologies develops several academic staff opportunities. These include workshops in Blackboard; seminars and panel discussions on teaching with technology; live, interactive telecasts and satellite broadcasts. Academic Technologies also offers an eLearning Quality Instruction Program to assist staff members in creating eLearning opportunities in their face-to-face courses.
- **Technical/Infrastructure Support:**
  - **Behavioral:** Integrated

    The academic staff at the U have plenty of opportunity to engage in formal and informal support in order to bring technology to their classroom. Many staff members do participate, however there are still many who do not.
  - **Resource/Infrastructure:** Intelligent

    Academic Technologies is an independent department on campus available to all 8 colleges. The mission of Academic Technologies is: To advance teaching, learning, and communicating through innovation and the strategic use of academic technology.

    The Office of Information Technologies also offers support for a wide variety of software used by a single (or few) department(s) on campus.

Connectivity

- **Local Area Networking (LAN)**
  - **Behavioral:** Intelligent
  - **Resource/Infrastructure:** Intelligent

  See comment below.
- **District Area Networking (WAN)**
  - **Behavioral:** Intelligent
  - **Resource/Infrastructure:** Intelligent

See comment below.
- **Internet Access**
    - **Behavioral:** Intelligent
    - **Resource/Infrastructure:** Intelligent

See comment below.
- **Communication Systems**
    - **Behavioral:** Intelligent
    - **Resource/Infrastructure:** Intelligent

Office of Information Technologies maintains the connectivity of the campus. Academic staff have remote access to specific U networks through Virtual Private Networks (VPN) Services. Wireless access is available throughout campus and every student and staff member is supplied with their own U maintained email account.

Innovation
- **New Technologies**
    - **Behavioral:** Integrated

Most of the academic staff readily embraces new technology. However, there are still several who are not interested.
    - **Resource/Infrastructure:** Intelligent

See "Administrative" comments.
- **Comprehensive Technologies**
    - **Behavioral:** Intelligent
    - **Resource/Infrastructure:** Intelligent

In addition to the usual computers and A/V and digital equipment, Horsin' Around U also offers small group collaborative software, 3D Visualization labs and iTunesU. Podcasts can be created using the iTunesU platform.

Conclusion
Horsin' Around U definitely rates in the Intelligent classification in the Technology Maturity Benchmark. In all areas of Resource/Infrasturcture this institution received the Intelligent rating. Technology and support are readily available to all of the academic staff. All staff (academic and administrative) and students utilize the technology made available on a daily basis. New technologies are being integrated into many different courses throughout the campus. And formalized training is made available to all academic staff throughout the year. However, the areas that Horsin' Around U needs to improve are in the Behavior areas that involve the participation of the academic staff. Due to our current state of affairs, the U's budget is being cut by the state government. This has slowed, and in many departments frozen, the hiring of new staff. Many staff members have been teaching at the U for years, are comfortable with their courses and are not interested in embracing new technology. This is not always a bad thing, but in some cases students may be missing out in a better learning environment due to the lack of technological opportunities. Promoting and emphasizing success in those courses that do utilize the new technology may be a way to promote the use of new technologies in other classrooms.