

## Findings of ECAR Study of Student Technology Use at De Anza

### By Willie Pritchard

Of the De Anza College students (n=846) who responded to the survey:

- Only 18.8% indicated that they don't own a desktop computer; 29.1% don't own a laptop. In both cases this is lower than the national results of all surveyed students (29% and 33%, respectively).
- For other electronic/digital devices:
  - 26% own a PDA
  - 17.7% own a smart phone (combo cell phone and PDA)
  - 64.7% own an MP3 player (such as an iPod)
  - 82.5% own a digital camera
  - 51.7% own an electronic game device (PSP, Xbox, Game Boy, etc.)
  - 52.2% own a wireless hub
- 100% of respondents maintain an active email account, 79.4% have more than one account, and 93.4% prefer to use an account other than a De Anza College account
- An overwhelming number (81.9%) of respondents prefer that the college communicate with them via email (next highest category was paper-based mail with 4.3%)
- Less than 10% of De Anza students reported they use a dial-up modem to access the Internet
- 72% have not used a course management system
- 72.5% use a commercial broadband service as their most frequent method of accessing the internet

Relative to other students in the survey, De Anza students reported they:

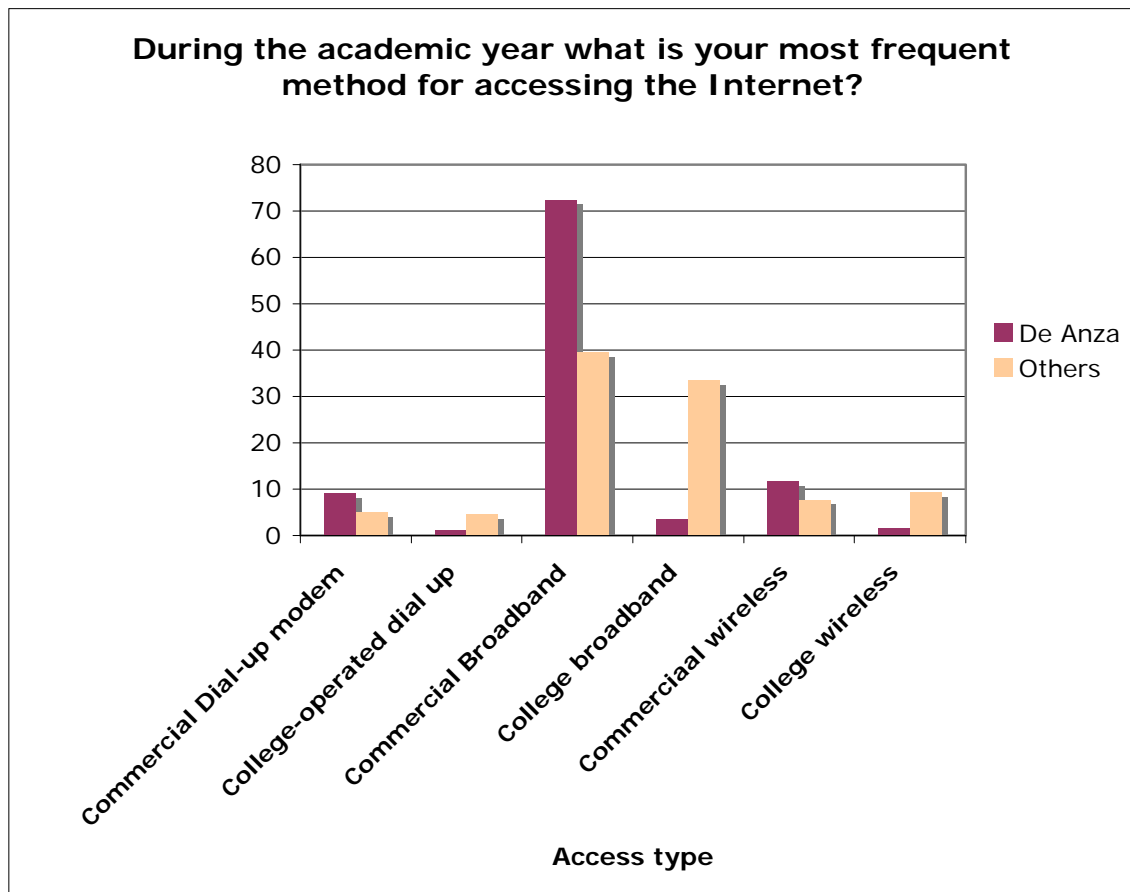
- Used an electronic device for course activities less often
- Were more likely to own a current desktop computer than a current laptop computer
- Used a course management system much less often (although reported the same positive and negative experiences as others who had used them more often)
- Bought software applications at a higher rate than students elsewhere
- Used a dial-up line about twice as much, but also used a commercial broadband service almost twice as often (most other students were 4-year residential and their institution likely provided high-speed access); in sum, De Anza students have about as much access to broadband internet services as other students (although they may have to pay for it more than others)
- Did not experience as much use of technology in their classes as others
- Tended to like the use of technology in their classes more than others

Generally De Anza students:

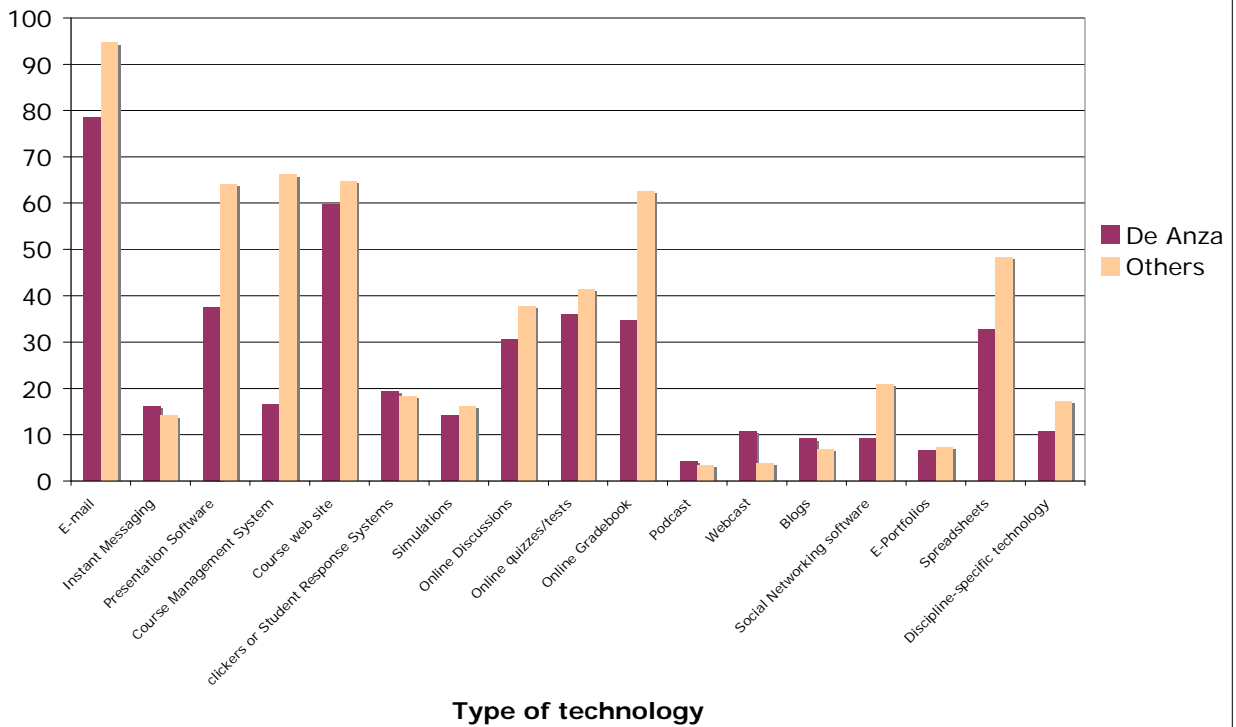
- Agreed or strongly agreed that the use of IT in courses has improved their learning (over 60% combines), and that specifically it helped them communicate better with their classmates and their instructors
- Felt their use of a CMS was positive or very positive (72.5% total, very similar to students elsewhere)

The following findings are not surprising considering the nature of community college students and our location in Silicon Valley:

- De Anza student generally rated themselves with higher proficiency with computer applications (spreadsheets, graphics, presentation, web-page) and computer maintenance than other students nation-wide.
- De Anza students generally rated themselves less proficient with library software and course management systems than other students nation-wide.
- De Anza students were less likely than students elsewhere to say they learned software applications as a result of coursework and more likely to say they learned applications as a result of personal interest, job requirements, or to enhance future job opportunities.



**Are any of the following used in your courses during the current term? (Using this quarter)**



**The use of IT in my courses has improved my learning**

