

# Faculty Attitudes About Using ALN

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# SCALE

## Sloan Center for Asynchronous Learning Environments

Approximately 300 courses  
involving over 200 faculty and  
several thousand students  
in all eight colleges  
over three years.

## DATA FROM:

200 Faculty Surveys

72 Faculty/TA Interviews

# FACULTY LIKES AND CONCERNS

# FACULTY LIKE USING ALN BECAUSE IT . . .

- ? Increases Communication with, and Among Students

*“More contact with individual students...not face to face, but definitely more interaction and more student questions answered.”*

*“Considerably more out-of-class interaction with the instructor and with other students.”*

*“I was able to stay more in touch with students.”*

*“I am more able to answer questions, provide commentary, offer suggestions.”*

# FACULTY LIKE USING ALN BECAUSE IT . . .

- ? Increases Communication with, and Among Students
- ? Builds a Sense of Community

*“I felt much more connected to the students, I had a much better sense of what students needed to know what I needed to include in my lectures.”*

*“I felt more involved in the course because I could more clearly detect the rhythms of student work on the course material.”*

*“We all got to know one another very well. The students were much less inhibited in asking questions and commenting on others questions than they usually are in the classroom.”*

# FACULTY LIKE USING ALN BECAUSE IT . . .

- ? Increases Communication with, and Among Students
- ? Builds a Sense of Community
- ? Enables Better Use of Time and Resources

*“Using ALN allows me to spend more time in lecture on fun material - relating lecture material to real life situations, etc.”*

*“I could concentrate more on understanding versus rote memorization.”*

*“ALN is an excellent way to promote critical, thoughtful discussion without using up class time on [management] needs.”*

*“...my office hours are not wasted on simple clarification questions.”*

# FACULTY LIKE USING ALN BECAUSE IT . . .

- ? Increases Communication with, and Among Students
- ? Builds a Sense of Community
- ? Enables Better Use of Time and Resources
- ? Supports Team Work/Collaboration

*“Students were able to meet for team projects over the computer. They talked more about the project out of class.”*

*“It helped groups work more effectively... I think they contacted me more than they normally would have.”*

*“Team folders were established and used frequently.”*

*“ALN was essential to the success of this course because of its impact on teamwork.”*

# FACULTY LIKE USING ALN BECAUSE IT . . .

- ? Increases Communication with, and Among Students
- ? Builds a Sense of Community
- ? Enables Better Use of Time and Resources
- ? Supports Team Work/Collaboration
- ? Provides Immediate Feedback

*“I am able to respond directly to the students’ comments and questions, in a way which never happened before.”*

*“...students using Microsoft Excel were able to send me their workbook via FirstClass. I could correct or point out their errors in a much shorter amount of time than I could in the old days.”*

*“Mallard has allowed them to drill more and more. This is important in this type of course.”*

*“I was able to use their [students] feedback to write better, clearer questions for exams, and I also made efficient use of review session time.”*

*“I use the Mallard program. I follow the students’ progress on the homework assignment before each lecture and adjust my lecture accordingly to cover the concepts which are causing the most difficulty.”*

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- ? Increases Communication with, and Among Students
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- ? Enables Better Use of Time and Resources
- ? Supports Team Work/Collaboration
- ? Provides Immediate Feedback
- ? Motivates Students

*“The students got more involved with the class.”*

*“This forced students to stay on top of the reading because they had to post regularly.”*

*“The use of discussion outside of class helped to create norms for active participation inside class -- the class was unusually active, and everyone participated.”*

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- ? Supports Team Work/Collaboration
- ? Provides Immediate Feedback
- ? Motivates Students
- ? Encourages Curriculum Revision

*“...required us to rethink the course objectives...”*

*“ALN is now an integral part of my teaching techniques. I am developing curricula that are built around this technology.”*

*“I found it possible to include a small amount of new material in the course...”*

*“ALN has allowed me to incorporate peer-review into the course.”*

## WHEN USING ALN FACULTY ARE CONCERNED ABOUT . . .

- ? Time required to start-up and maintain
- ? Lack of campus rewards
- ? Dependency on campus support
- ? Initial(?) decline in student ratings
- ? Student expectations
- ? Keeping up with constant change

Questions?

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