World of Many Clouds

How can higher education leaders enhance the learning experience while reducing costs and expanding access? One way is by providing on-demand access to coursework, lectures, and educational services, whenever and wherever students and faculty happen to be. The new world of cloud services combines powerful computing, networking, storage, management tools, and applications to make it easier than ever to bridge the on-campus and online worlds with secure, on-demand services. With cloud-based services, higher education institutions can take advantage of an interconnected world of many clouds to support academic programs, facilitate research and collaboration with partner institutions, connect students to the world, simplify operations, and reduce costs.

Challenges in Higher Education

High expectations on the part of students and faculty are now driving IT focus and investment at colleges and universities around the world. Students increasingly come to campus with their own mobile devices and expect to use them to access coursework, content, and school services. Faculty members increasingly rely on wireless digital and video-based content, as well as the ability to easily connect and collaborate with colleagues. These expectations place intense pressure on IT organizations in higher education. With fixed budgets and a range of possible solutions, it can be challenging to determine which solutions best meet the needs of students, faculty, administrators, and research partners. In response to increasing demands, an individual department may purchase an application that is difficult to integrate, requires frequent maintenance, overwhelms the campus network, or exposes the institution to security breaches. In this challenging environment, cloud-based computing has become an increasingly attractive option for delivering education services securely, reliably, and economically.

Cisco Cloud for Higher Education

Cisco® Cloud for higher education uniquely combines Cisco Unified Data Center, Cisco Cloud Intelligent Network, and innovative cloud services into an integrated architecture that helps institutions deliver highly secure, cloud-based services.

- **Cisco Unified Data Center:** Brings together computing, network, and storage resources into an integrated platform for delivering IT services within and between data centers.
- **Cisco Cloud Intelligent Network:** Enhances Cisco routing and switching solutions with cloud intelligence and integrates with Cisco Unified Data Center to create a platform for delivering cloud services to students, faculty, and administrators and for connecting with other clouds and automating management.
- **Cisco Cloud Security:** Cisco SecureX Architecture™ provides context-aware security and policy enforcement in both traditional computing and cloud computing environments.
- **Cisco Collaboration Cloud portfolio:** Hosted applications and services such as Cisco Unified Communications, Cisco TelePresence®, Cisco WebEx®, and customer contact, meetings, instant messaging, presence, and mobility applications provide a rich, interactive, and compelling user experience.
- **Cisco Services:** Cisco Services supports Cisco Cloud with a portfolio of Cisco Cloud Enablement Services to help institutions quickly realize the full value of cloud computing. Flexible terms enable colleges and universities to reduce the risk of moving to cloud-based service delivery.
Benefits of Cisco Cloud for Higher Education

- **Accelerate delivery of differentiated services**: Cisco Cloud enables institutions to quickly deploy applications that deliver coursework and lectures, help attract the best students and faculty, offer lifetime learning, reach new students beyond the campus, and increase safety and security.

- **Increase agility**: IT can automate management and provisioning of cloud-based services to simplify operations, save time, and help reduce costs. High scalability eliminates the time needed for purchasing and deploying additional infrastructure.

- **Reduce costs**: Virtualization and other features of Cisco Unified Data Center and Cisco Cloud Intelligent Network enable service delivery at a lower cost than traditional infrastructures, which allows colleges and universities to achieve the economies of scale and efficiency delivered by cloud computing.

- **Reduce risk and enhance security**: Cisco cloud security helps IT reduce risk through the Cisco SecureX Architecture, which enables consistent security policies and enforcement, up-to-date threat intelligence, greater scalability, and improved performance. Cisco cloud security helps remove cloud barriers so that higher education institutions can achieve the educational and business benefits of cloud computing.

- **Reshape teaching and expand collaboration**: Cisco offers a portfolio of cloud services, such as Cisco WebEx and Cisco TelePresence, that can expand the learning environment to anyone, anywhere, and provide faculty and students with a rich, interactive eLearning environment. These cloud services can also help institutions control IT costs, manage energy expenses, and reduce travel time and costs.

**Why Cisco?**

Cisco has years of experience working closely with higher education institutions and we have built a collection of network, security, and management best practices for deploying successful computing environments based on Cisco Cloud. Cisco Cloud Intelligent Network architecture and validated network designs have been successfully deployed and tested in Cisco labs.

**Learn More Today**

Cisco Cloud can help you keep up with changing student, faculty, and administrative demands while maintaining security, simplifying operations, reducing cost, and increasing educational agility.

For more information, visit: [www.cisco.com/go/cloud](http://www.cisco.com/go/cloud).