

## SAA 701: Student Affairs & Technology

**This course examines the impact of technology on student affairs and higher education. This particular assignment involves a collaborative student effort to find the latest technology tools that our current students and universities are using across the country. As you can imagine, we all learn a lot of new things from each other – “Check It Out!”**

1. GPS LifePlan is basically a comprehensive plan for student success. It stands for Goals + Plans = Success, and it consists of a website ([www.gpslifeplan.org/century](http://www.gpslifeplan.org/century)), an eFolio, and online and on-campus workshops.
2. Digsby is a tool that allows you to combine IM, email, and social networkers at [www.digsby.com](http://www.digsby.com). Not only is it a multiprotocol IM client, it's also an alerter for email notifications, events, messages, and updates on social networks.
3. Second Life is now being used by universities to conduct distance learning classes, supplement traditional courses, and build stronger campus communities. Groups can meet in Second Life to work on projects, discuss ideas, or to socialize. Go to [www.secondlife.com](http://www.secondlife.com) for more info.
4. AskOnline is a platform website designed for on-line tutoring. The program (once purchased by an institution) allows students to meet both synchronously and asynchronously allowing tutoring time to be more flexible. Currently, AskOnline is used at over forty institutions nationwide and testimonials located on the website show that the program is both user friendly and useful. Go to [www.askonline.net](http://www.askonline.net).
5. OrgSync is an online system for Student Activities offices to help manage on-campus organizations. This system is very useful to both the Student Activities office as well as students that are in different clubs and organizations. [www.orgsync.org](http://www.orgsync.org)
6. This system, [www.maxient.com](http://www.maxient.com), is a completely online conduct tracking system. It contains all aspects of the conduct process on redundant servers so there will not be a loss of information. There are several functions that will make the conduct process run much smoother, but the part that is the most exciting is that when you send conduct letters out to student, the system can track exactly where it is. Also, to even be able to view the letter, the student must input the passcode included in the email. This will definitely cut down on the "I didn't get that letter" excuse.
7. In 2007, a new technology tool was created that would change the way Transfer Services offices share information on transfer credit with their students. At the time, the tool had barely obtained full functioning in the state of Illinois and it was being marketed to Community College transfer offices as the most up-to-date information that we could have to assist our students. The tool, U.Select would allow both students and transfer office personnel to access transfer equivalencies for every course uploaded by colleges or Universities who participated. Colleges and Universities are required to upload their catalogs every year in order to maintain accurate information, U.select does the rest. Go to <https://oh.transfer.org/cas> .
8. Email was created 40 years ago before the internet was up and running. Developers at Google asked themselves what would email look like if created today. Thus, Google Wave was born. People can communicate and work together with richly formatted text, photos, videos, maps, and more. Any participant can reply anywhere in the message, edit content and add participants at any point in the process. With live transmissions as you type, participants on a wave can have faster conversations, see edits and interact with extensions in real-time.
9. According to their website, Qipit is a free mobile online copy service that can be used to copy and share documents with a camera phone or a digital camera for free. The web service acts as a mobile copy center by transforming digital photographs (in the form of JPEG images) into easy-to-read

documents that can be shared. The picture taken can be of a whiteboard (with notes), handwritten notes, or a document. <http://www.qipit.com>

10. Some of you may be interested in assistive technology (AT) for students with disabilities. There is an amazing wealth of AT out there for students who have challenges, so if you have any interest in learning more about this area, here are a few things to check out:

**Text to Speech Software:** This is software that allows the user to have the computer read what is on the screen. There are two types - for users who are blind, and users who are dyslexic.

- [JAWS](#) (Blind students)
- [Kurzweil](#) (Blind or Dyslexic Students)
- [WYNN](#)(Dyslexic students)
- [Read and Write Gold](#) (Dyslexic students)

**Speech to Text Software:** This is dictation software. Although it is not marketed toward students with disabilities (SWD), it is frequently used by them.

- [Dragon Naturally Speaking](#)

**Organizational/Study Software:** Again, not marketed toward SWD, but very helpful to them.

- [Microsoft OneNote](#) - Comes standard on Microsoft Office 2007 and later - allows users to organize and type notes into an "online binder" of sorts. Has tools that allows users to draw, diagram, insert charts, pictures, etc directly into notes. Very intuitive software. Also has a record feature that syncs notes with the recording, so later students can go back and hear the part of the lecture they were listening to when they typed out a specific phrase.
- [Inspiration](#) - Organizational software. Basically this is the computerized version of a graphic organizer... only cooler. Allows user to switch back and forth between a graphic organizer and an outline. The latest version of this works alongside Dragon, so users can speak their organizers out.
- [Livescribe](#) pen -- a pen that records and then syncs recording to what you write. The recording ability on this pen is amazing, and has some very cool features. Fairly inexpensive for what it does.

### Cellphone Technology

- Truly the coolest thing I've seen in the last year is the [KNFB Reader](#) Cellphone. It has a 5 MP camera that snaps a picture of anything that is typewritten (menu, instructions, meeting agenda, etc.), converts it to a PDF, and then reads it aloud. Very discrete, looks and operates exactly as a cellphone, but can be used with an earbud so user can listen unobtrusively. For students with reading disorders, this can make the "printed world" finally accessible.

There is certainly a lot of other AT out there that is specific to various disabilities...magnifying software for students who have low vision, computer mouse head "pointers" for people who lack muscle tone coordination and can't operate a mouse...the list goes on and on.

11. Some universities and program are posting photos on [www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com) for recruitment purposes.

12. You might like [www.geocommons.com](http://www.geocommons.com) to create data maps!

13. A popular professional network for students, faculty, and staff is [www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com).

14. For more info, take a look at this online resource – [www.campustechnology.com](http://www.campustechnology.com)