

iPad Information

Why do I need an iPad? How can I use this in my teaching?

An iPad could be a valuable addition to your teaching methods. If you have a Mac, the iPad is basically just a smaller, lighter, and more portable version of your computer. With various free apps, you can edit and create documents and slideshow presentations, communicate with your students faster and from any location, and review the text you are teaching right before class. With the included adapter, you can also plug in your iPad and use it as a projector during class without having to worry about emailing or saving your presentation/lecture notes to another location.

The Chronicle of Higher Education has collected articles and reviews of teaching with tablets. In [a post about the positive uses of teaching with tablets](#), English professor Alan Jacobs mentioned many of his tips and tricks to using his iPad for and in the classroom. Some of the uses of his iPad include quickly creating presentations right before class and saving all of his files immediately to Dropbox. He finds that being able to plug in the iPad directly to a projector is one of the most convenient features.

Also in *The Chronicle* is the article “The iPad for Professors: Evaluating a Productivity Tool After One Year”. [This article](#) includes six short reviews about the daily use of an iPad. A majority of the reviews mentions the convenience of the iPad for quick note taking as well as the functionality of a MacBook without the extra weight. One professor even mentions that the iPad assists with classroom management by allowing her to track attendance and grades and also view assignments right from her device.

Educator Tony Vincet has created [an infographic](#) that illustrates many practical ways to integrate an iPad into the classroom. While some of it is not targeted to higher education, it does explain how to connect to a projector, conduct polls, and store documents. It also suggests many apps such as Google Drive and Evernote, which can sync to other devices.

Okay, so can I try one out?

The Instructional and Information Technology Group has an iPad to lend to instructors. Please see the Assistant Director for more information on how to borrow it.

How do I set up an iPad?

The [official iPad User Guide](#) from Apple

[Step by step instructions](#) with screenshots

How do I put apps on my iPad? How do I take them off?

How to download/uninstall an app:

[Step by step instructions](#) on the Apple Support website

How do I protect my data when I'm done?

How to clear an iPad:

Go to: Settings > General

Tap: Reset > Erase All Content and Settings

[Step by step instructions](#) with screenshots

Okay, I have an iPad. Now what?

Suggested apps to get you started:

Free:

- **iBooks:** You can download and read books that you are teaching in class on your iPad and can also annotate the text. If using iCloud, you can organize and save your books to be shown on any other device with this app. This app works with iPhones, iPod touches, and iPad's.
- **iTunes U:** Same as iTunes U through the computer; now you can access it anywhere from your iPad. Includes lecture content and podcasts from many different courses in all subjects. You can also upload your own podcasts to UMD's iTunes U where students can then access and download them to their own devices.
- **WordPress:** If you use a WordPress blog site for your class, you can manage it (create/edit posts, view/moderate comments) from your iPad.
- **Dropbox:** Dropbox is like an online flash drive—you can save any documents, photos, and videos to Dropbox and then access them anywhere. With the iPad app, you will automatically be able to save documents to Dropbox and access any previously uploaded documents on your iPad. You can also share documents with students through Dropbox as long as they have an account.
- **Canvas for iOS:** Our ELMS is powered by Canvas Instructure. This app allows you to access your ELMS site from your iPad. There is also the **SpeedGrader** app through Canvas that allows you to grade and view submissions from students as well as view Word, Excel, PowerPoint, PDF, and HTML documents.
- **The Diamondback:** This is the app for UMD's newspaper. This could be useful if you plan on using articles for examples in class or want to refer to local news as the app offers real-time news access.
- **Merriam-Webster Dictionary HD:** Free dictionary in case you need a quick reference or definition for your class. Offers voice search, synonyms, antonyms, and origins.
- **Free Books-23,469 classics to go.:** Similar to iBooks, except that you can also import your own ebooks to your iPad library. Can annotate, bookmark, and define words.
- **TED:** If you like TED talks or use them as part of class material, this app could give a easier way to search for specific topics of talks. You do not have to be online to use this app. You can browse by themes or tags.

Not Free

- **Advanced English Dictionary & Thesaurus HD (\$4.99):** If you want a more extensive dictionary, this is probably the better app. It is similar to the Merriam-Webster dictionary except for that a thesaurus is attached. Also includes American and British audio pronunciations and "Old English" word definitions. Covers 4.9 million words.
- **Attendance (\$4.99):** You can use this app to take and keep track of attendance, including excused or non-excused absences. You probably can also use it for

keeping track of participation if participation is required during each class. You can import names from Dropbox or email, and it can hold multiple course attendance lists. Organized by class, date and student.