WORLD WIDE WEB COURSE TOOLS

WebCT

The Web Based Course Tools package that was selected to be used by the laptop program is WebCT. The following tools are available in WebCT:

- Password protected course web site

- Online Quizzes

- Bulletin Board

- Email

- Course Notes

- Calendar

- Whiteboard

- Student Homepages and Presentations

- Online gradebook and grade posting

Engineering and Science
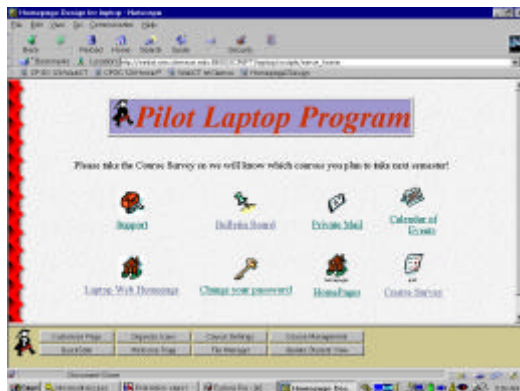
Clemson University

College of Engineering and Science

Pilot Laptop Program Web Site:

http://www.ces.clemson.edu/laptop

Clemson University

College of Engineering and Science

WebCT Site:

http://www.ces.clemson.edu/webct

For information on the Laptop programs contact:

Laurie Sherrod, Program Manager

laurie@clemson.edu

864-656-1344

THE COLLEGE OF
Architecture, Arts
and Humanities

CLEMSON
UNIVERSITY

PILOT LAPTOP PROGRAMS
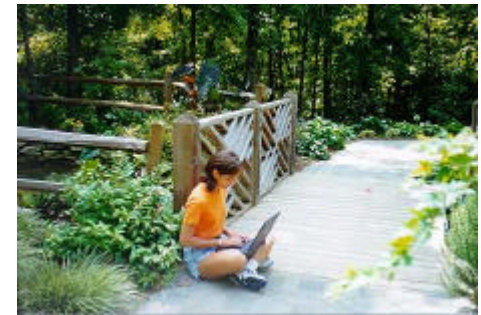
Here are some things students are doing with their laptops:

- During class Internet access

- During class online testing or quizzes

- During class feedback to let the instructor know how well a point was understood

- Research

- Video or audio conferencing

- Outside of class conferencing /communicating with fellow students and/or the instructor

- Electronic office hours

- Online syllabus, class notes, calendar

- Instant feedback and grade lookup

- Use of course-specific software

- Collaboration across disciplines

The Clemson University College of Engineering and Science and the College of Architecture, Arts, and Humanities will host Pilot Laptop Programs in fall 2000. Students will purchase high performance laptop computers to use both in their classrooms and in their dorm rooms. Special laptop courses will be held in classrooms equipped with ethernet connections in every desk. Courses will be offered in English, Math, Chemistry, Computer Science, Physics, History, Speech, Spanish and Engineering. Each individual instructor will customize his course to take advantage of using the laptop both in class and out of class.

On campus hardware support will be provided. Scholarship laptops will be made available for a few students with financial need.

We have observed some significant innovations and benefits during the first two years of the project. English classes are completing creative assignments such as writing projects using their laptops in the Botanical Gardens and at the Homecoming Habitat for Humanity project. There has been a sense of community established by the laptop students as a result of the block scheduling of laptop classes - similar to having a small college environment within a larger institution. This is fostered by the collaborative, interactive teaching style of the laptop classes, and the easy communications with peers as well as faculty provided by the computers.

The advantages of having a personal laptop include:

- Not having to wait in line for a lab machine

- Having the same machine at all times in class and out of class and at home on breaks

- Anyplace/anytime computing and communications

- A large segment of business and industry is rapidly moving to a single mobile computer per employee eliminating the need for separate office and home desktops.

- Employers are now seeking students with team building skills. Active and cooperative methods and team building rely on communication. Studies show these skills are developed in university laptop programs.

- Many Engineering colleges are requiring laptops because of the preparation it builds for prospective employees