Located 12 miles east of Pittsburgh, Penn State Greater Allegheny is one of 20 undergraduate Penn State campuses. We serve as a catalyst for individual and social change, committed to improving the community and world around us. Our faculty, staff and students represent a diverse group of hardworking, creative and resilient individuals. Having our small and caring community connected to a world class academic institution is a powerful combination. Our instructors are leaders in their respective fields, yet they are committed to teaching excellence and knowing their students by name. This supportive environment provides the foundation for our campus mission, which is for students to inspire themselves and others to be greater.

Technical equity and digital citizenship are integral to Penn State Greater Allegheny’s Digital Fluency Project. Each student, faculty and staff member receives an iPad, the common tool that connects us to innovative teaching, learning, and service strategies. We unite Apple’s innovative technology with the expertise of our faculty and staff, and the curiosity of our student body. Through the power of collaboration, our students acquire new knowledge, evaluate information, and solve problems. They understand how, when, and where to ethically use digital tools and applications, signifying their belonging in a culture of responsible digital citizenry.

DEMографICS

| 396  | Students |
| 49%  | First Generation College Students |
| 42%  | Student Diversity |
| 49%  | Pell Grant Recipients |
| 136  | Employees |

VISION

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APPLE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

- iPad
- Apple Pencil
- Logitech Crayon
- Apple Configuration Manager
- Apple TV
- Air Play
- Augmented Reality
- Apple Teacher Program

PRINTING AT PENN STATE GREATER ALLEGHENY

![Graph showing printing costs since digital fluency began]
“We believe education occurs within and beyond classroom walls. The strategies we employ allow students to develop knowledge and demonstrate skills and understanding.”

– Penn State Greater Allegheny Strategic Plan

LEARNING

The Digital Fluency Project has made innovation the expectation at Penn State Greater Allegheny. This initiative encourages a re-imagination of education in ways that align with our campus values. The iPad not only promotes digital equity for all students, but it also allows faculty to adopt and create free and low-cost digital options, thus reducing overall course costs. Additionally, the iPad provides seamless access to a wide range of Penn State licensed software while also putting one of the top public libraries in the palm of our students’ hands.

The iPad has increased collaboration and expanded the definition of a “classroom” by allowing students to be in the same digital space, working to solve problems or share ideas, even when separated geographically. The digital workspace provided by the iPad has expanded student-instructor communication and reinvented course feedback loops, dramatically shrinking the timeline between the submission of student work and the availability of written instructor feedback.

The learning transformation is not just happening in classrooms. Other offices and units have adjusted their approach to work. In research labs, the iPad allows both written and multimedia documentation that is permanently stored and easily shared. In some cases, the iPad has also become an integral part of the research itself. Furthermore, the iPad has become an essential tool for academic planning, making virtual tutoring sessions available, and pushing apps to students for everything from communicating campus events to combatting food insecurity.

SUCCESS

Success in higher education occurs when lives are transformed and conditions improve for the people and communities served. We consider the Digital Fluency Project a sustainability initiative, ensuring environmental, economic, and social success into the future. By leveraging the iPad and making digital spaces accessible to all, we have reduced our paper usage and power consumption. Our students spend less money on textbooks and other supplies. Digital collaboration extends beyond the classroom and into student success initiatives. For example, the availability of virtual tutoring, started in response to the pandemic, helps our students reach the finish line, leading to an increase in campus degrees awarding during the first three semesters of the pandemic compared to the semesters the year prior.

PENN STATE GREATER ALLEGHENY GRADUATES

WHAT'S NEXT

We envision a three-pronged approach to Digital Fluency:

‣ Our student Apple Teachers will pioneer a peer educator program in which they guide and encourage our newest students to embrace educational technology.

‣ Our Early Adopters Team will develop a competency-based badging initiative, inspired by Apple Teacher. We will identify digital fluency objectives for students to master each academic year, tying them to degree outcomes.

‣ An advisory group comprised of industry and graduate school leaders will inform our strategies, ensuring students are career and graduate school ready. Our graduates will bring innovation to the workplace and critical thinking and ethical decision-making skills to their future classrooms.

LINKS

Digital Fluency Project Page | ga.psu.edu/gadigitalfluency
Our Impact Keeps Growing | ga.psu.edu/impact
Photo Gallery | ga.psu.edu/DFP-Improvements