

RECORDING LECTURES: TRENDS, OPTIONS, COSTS, AND PITFALLS

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Purpose: Many schools now record lectures and distribute them to students. This session will discuss the various approaches that schools have taken, the advantages and disadvantages of each, and the surprises along the way. Schools considering offering recorded lectures, or schools considering a change of methodology will benefit from the shared experiences.

The presenter has surveyed 49 U.S. medical schools that are currently recording and distributing lectures and will share those survey results. The presenter has also surveyed the students at his own institution to determine their preferences and level of interest in this study aid, and the various ways it can be delivered. The various technical solutions will be described briefly, including initial costs and staffing needs. Currently there are four major approaches taken by medical schools:

1. Make digital audio recordings using computers or dedicated recorder. Students or staff upload the files. This is the least expensive approach, but captures no visuals.
2. Screen capture with synced audio using Camtasia. This captures any presentation on a Windows computer with the presenter's voice over. It doesn't capture presenters using their own laptops or Macs. This requires more staff time to compress and post.
3. Record presentations using video cameras. This typically requires a camera operator, and staff management of video compression and posting to web sites. This approach is the most labor intensive, but most flexible.
4. Record all presentations using a specialized lecture capture system, such as Apreso Classroom, Lectopia or MediaSite. This requires a significant hardware investment but can automate the process significantly, reducing labor requirements.

After the topic introduction by the presenter, supported with handouts of survey results and a summary of solutions, the session will be opened up to discussion so that participants can share their observations, experiences and interests with one another

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