Exploring the Technology Fee at Shippensburg University
http://www.ship.edu/its/techfee/

Where does my technology fee money go?

The technology fee that you pay with your bill combines with the fees paid by other students. Faculty and staff submit proposals for new projects to enhance classroom learning experiences, student research opportunities, and hands on learning opportunities. These proposals are reviewed by IT and then evaluated by the Academic Tech Review Committee comprised of faculty, staff, administrators and student representatives, and ranked by priority based on factors such as student impact, project feasibility, and likelihood of success. A recommendation is then made to the Provost/Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs based on these rankings. Projects are funded based on rank, until the money earmarked for new technology is depleted.

Once implemented, projects come up for renewal every four years, at which time the project’s successfulness is evaluated, and renewal status is determined by the Academic Tech Review Committee.

What Types of Projects get Funded?

There are three main types of funding categories for tech fee projects.

1. Innovative Use of Technology
   This category is for projects displaying an innovative use of new or existing technology for enhancement of the students’ learning experience.

2. Scientific-intensive Equipment
   This category is for scientific equipment with significant digital components used by students to enhance their learning experience.

3. New or Significant Augmentation of a Technology Enhanced Classroom/Teaching Facility
   This category is for projects involving the complete design, implementation, and use of a new or augmented technology for an enhanced classroom/teaching facility used by students.

What is the Technology Fee?

The technology fee is a fee set annually by the PASSHE Board of Governors, paid by all students, proportional to their enrollment and residency status.

The Purposes of the technology tuition fee are: to acquire, install and maintain up-to-date and emerging technologies for the purpose of enhancing student-learning outcomes; to provide equitable access to technology resources; and to ensure PASSHE graduates are competitive in the technologically sophisticated workplace.
Tech Fee Equipment

Much of the equipment that you use on campus on a daily basis was purchased with technology fee monies. The smart carts, projectors, computers and other smart technologies in most classrooms and computer labs were funded by your tech fee.

As are many of the devices that you use to augment your learning experiences both in and out of the classroom.

Tech fee funds find their way into many unexpected services and pieces of equipment, like the online databases you access from the library when researching a paper or the Digital Signage displays around campus keeping you up to date on campus events and reporting important announcements. The possibilities are limitless.

Smart Classrooms play an intricate role in enhancing students’ learning outcomes. Through the use of equipment such as computers, projectors, DVD/VCRs, document cameras, SMARTBoards, clicker response systems and symposiums, students are able to become active participants in the learning experience.

The Mathematics classroom shown above contains a full smart cart including a computer, DVD/VCR combo, and signal switching equipment. It also has a document camera which allows for the projection of printed materials or 3-D objects up onto the screen, and SMARTBoard which provides touch interaction with the board on which the images are displayed.