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**Angela Wyss****Xavier University**Assistant AD of
Student-Athlete Academic
Support Services**Technology in Academics: For Better or For Worse**

Technology – to love it or to hate it is the question. In 2022 we as a society rely heavily on technology to set the tone for our days. Whether it's an Apple watch that tracks our steps for the day, a cell phone that accounts for a large majority of our communication, or a MacBook that helps us do our work throughout the week. Today's modern-day student has never known a world without such technology. These types of advances in communication have become the norm in our everyday lives to the extent that we often don't realize how much we really rely on technology.

Technology is now the main source of learning in the classroom in higher education.

Students often submit their homework through an online portal, as well as take quizzes and exams online. This can provide for much quicker turnaround time in grading, as some programs grade exams or quizzes in real-time as soon as it is submitted. Additionally, some professors post their study guides and PowerPoint presentations on their online portal for students to utilize when studying for a class. Technology, when working properly, is a convenience like no other. However, when it is not working properly, it can provide for a lot of frustration and extra time to complete tasks. This is why sometimes we love technology and sometimes we hate it.

While convenience and the ability to save time are such great positives in using technology for academic purposes, there are also some reasons that technology can be concerning. Some institutions have seen an uptick in the amount of academic integrity issues. To combat this, universities often have to purchase expensive programs such as "Lockdown Browser" that prevents students from searching the web for

answers while taking an online quiz or an exam. Another commonly used program is "TurnItIn.com" which scans all written work for plagiarism. So, this begs the question, is it really better to use modern technology in academic settings? I think it all depends on who you ask. If you ask me, I prefer old school in-class handwritten quizzes and exams with the professor present at all times (but that's the athletics academic advisor professional in me speaking). No matter what we all think about this topic, the fact is technology will continue to advance and be used in a vast array of settings, including academics in higher education. So it's likely time to look forward to the future of technology and wrap our arms around the advancements with a big warm embrace.

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**Jacob Fricke****University of Notre Dame**
Compliance Assistant**Technical Difficulties; Please Stand By**

In 1995, a writer in *Newsweek* magazine predicted that "no online database will replace your daily newspaper" and "no computer network will change the way government works." The writer was wrong, of course, but that's nothing unique; I was woefully wrong about the future of technology in compliance a mere six months ago.

I began my tenure with the University of Notre Dame compliance department days after my graduation from a different unnamed university with all the confidence of a freshman undergraduate medical student diagnosing his family on fall break. I knew, of course, that Notre Dame Athletics was about to change its department-wide software platform and I would be tasked with helping the transition, but

how difficult could that possibly be?

The answer arrived like a Midwestern winter: sudden, intense, and with hope at least four months away. Trying to teach new technology to dozens of coaches and administrators, many of whom had been winning National Championships since before I was born, was a daunting task when I (realistically) only had about five days more training in the software than they did. And of course, I had no good answer to the common question: Why should we change when what we currently have works so well?

The real answer is that for athletics compliance, as in life, stagnation leads to routine and routine leads to mistakes. Our new platform was faster, more efficient, visually cleaner, and superior in every way. It also required we re-think the way we approached messaging with coaches, administrators, and student-athletes. I didn't know the old way, I only knew our ideas for the new way.

When I was a student, a compliance professional told me in a weary sort of way, that everyone will eventually commit a violation and that "eventually" could be as soon as tomorrow.

As we cautiously launched our new software and the coach inquiries rushed my inbox like the bulls in Pamplona, I was briefly sure that I had sunk my new career before it started, alongside a proud university. Death by a thousand cuts was to be replaced by "death via a thousand level three violations."

I wish I could say, "then, something miraculous happened and it all fell into place," but it did not. It's been months of a long slog through a technological quagmire, where the reward for settling one issue has been to jump headfirst into the next. The violations I dreaded did not materialize; coaches have been patient and accommodating. We're working through issues together; as arduous as the process may be, I have learned far more this way than if everything had simply worked on Day One.

Technology may not be cyclical, but the difficulties of implementation and adaptation of new technology has been the same at least since *Newsweek* declared it dead. At least during the next transition, when we're upgrading to using compliance software livestreamed into our brains, I'll face the change with less bravado and more experience.