

What is iTunes U?

iTunes U is an online resource for schools modelled after the iTunes Store. Students, staff, and parents can easily download a podcast (audio, video, or PDFs) from iTunes U at any time, from anywhere they have Internet access and a computer with iTunes or an iPod/iPhone. In addition to the digital content that PLC and Scotch creates, students, teachers and parents can also download content from other top-notch schools and universities worldwide, free of charge.

Why implement iTunes U?

iTunes U at PLC and Scotch College means that students have an early opportunity to work with the technology they will need to excel with in the future. PLC and Scotch College have been working very closely with Apple Inc. to ensure that this new technology will help prepare our students for learning, living, and working at the speed of 21st century communications. By downloading course material from iTunes U, students can view and review podcasts at their own pace. iTunes U also helps to extend the classroom because students can download podcasts to their iPod/iPhone and have access to their course content anywhere they go. Even more, parents can access their children's classwork and download content designed specifically for them by teachers and administrators.

What are the advantages of learning with iTunes U?

Research has repeatedly shown us that multimedia such as audio and video are more effective at helping students learn and retain new information than textbooks alone. iTunes U contains educational resources that are engaging and available on-demand – which means students can take more control of their own learning anywhere, anytime with multimedia content that interests them, and parents can get more involved in their children's education. Teachers today are already creating fantastic digital curriculum materials. iTunesU together with Apple's Podcasting System provides the key tools to enable teachers to distribute content quickly and efficiently.

What are the risks of iTunes U and mobile learning?

PLC and Scotch College have worked very hard to ensure that students are protected from the risks of security on the internet and getting off-task in class while using iTunes U and an iPod/iPhone. To help protect students, a 21st Century Skills program is under development to assist students in using the internet and time on the internet effectively. School-wide filters are installed to manage access to social networking sites (such as Facebook, MySpace, Twitter) and other inappropriate content during school hours. Teachers and IT staff are carefully constructing the mobile learning environment to engage technology like iTunes U, iPods, and laptops as 21st Century learning tools in addition to lifestyle uses.

How can I get PLC and Scotch College on iTunes U?

1. First of all, download iTunes (free) on your Windows PC or Mac computer, from <http://www.apple.com/itunes/>
2. Using a web browser (Internet Explorer, Firefox, Safari, etc.), go to: <https://deimos.apple.com/WebObjects/Core.woa/Browse/scotchplc.edu.au>