

Q&A: Harnessing the Benefits of the Cloud to Advance Higher Education

Higher education is changing. Many of today's students and their parents seek a quantifiable return on investment for years of study. Faculty face renewed performance scrutiny, while competing schools use social media to actively recruit top performers. Research institutions have a seemingly limitless appetite for computing power, storage, processing speed and other technology resources to conduct their work. Against this backdrop lies the expectation of an always-on digital environment that supports online learning, mobile apps, and modern HR and finance systems.

In this Q&A, Oracle public sector higher education leader Pat Mungovan discusses how Oracle helps educational institutions evaluate their current and future technology investments to reap the cost savings and flexibility of the cloud.



Patrick Mungovan
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Q: How can Oracle help institutions keep up with IT modernization and cloud adoption?

Educational institutions' IT infrastructures often have a combination of on-premises data center solutions, private cloud solutions and one-off public cloud solutions – all with little data security governance or oversight. This piecemeal approach does not allow institutions to take advantage of the cost savings and benefits of the cloud. To help, Oracle offers a comprehensive and fully integrated stack of cloud applications and platform services with features designed to address the unique security and compliance needs of higher educational institutions. Through our extensive partner network, we can help institutions migrate to the cloud and develop a holistic approach to modernizing all aspects of the enterprise, including back-office functions.

Q: How can Oracle improve student learning and advance research?

More than one-quarter of all higher education students are now enrolled in at least one online course. The cloud can help eliminate both virtual and physical barriers to access, delivery and collaboration so students can succeed with online learning. For academic research, the cloud provides access to extraordinary scale and compute capabilities, and enables global collaboration.

Oracle also serves a philanthropic role encompassing every level of learning. The Oracle Education Foundation engages employees as volunteer high school STEM coaches; Oracle Academy advances computer science globally to more than 3.1 million students in 110 countries; and Oracle Labs invests in research at universities, labs and research organizations worldwide.

Q: How can institutions start their cloud migration strategy?

We encourage all customers and partners to first evaluate the sustainability, security and performance of their enterprise technology investments. They then should leverage the latest technologies for advancements on campus and virtually, while optimizing the longevity of their investments. There are many paths to the cloud, but Oracle is one of the few technology companies able to address all of them.

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