

**First Laptop Program in Canada to offer a 2 for 1 Solution in Teacher Education!**

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## **WHAT IS NEW WITH THE iTEACH PROGRAM?**



In a groundbreaking move, Nipissing University will be the **first** Faculty of Education in Canada to employ both major computer Operating Systems (Mac OS X & Microsoft Windows) on the same laptop within a pre-service teacher education “1 to 1” mobile computer program.

Nipissing iTeach is a national leader in the field of educational technology and teacher education. Having established, sustained and grown our mobile computing initiative since 2001, we are second oldest laptop program in Canada. New teachers graduate from our program with a competitive advantage compared to alumni from other institutions. Nipissing teacher candidates have an enhanced skill set and attitudinal perspective with respect to integrating technology into their classroom teaching routines.

In Ontario and schools abroad, 21<sup>st</sup> century learners and educators are seeing more opportunities to employ digital resources to support teaching and student success. Schools are looking for new teachers with interests and abilities with respect to technology and teaching. Apple (Mac OS) and Microsoft (Windows) operating systems dominate the landscape. Nipissing pre-service teachers will receive a solid foundation in experience with **both** of these software environments enabling them compete more effectively in the employment marketplace.

In cooperation with Apple Canada, Nipissing University has secured educational pricing for the MacBook equipment. Students will be provided with access to a secure web portal linked to the Apple Education Store. In advance of the start of the school year, students will have the opportunity to shop for a new laptop of their choice (8 models to choose from) that will meet their needs and budget. Those students already owning a contemporary MacBook or wanting to purchase a used model, may choose to do so if it meets minimum specifications\*. Refer to the iTeach Program information site for details: <http://www.nipissingu.ca/iTeach>

The “new” iTeach Laptop Learning Program will utilize External Hard Drive (EHD) technology as a medium to manage the Ministry of Education provincially licensed software as well as commercial applications licensed to the University. Nipissing University will own the EHD equipment. Students will enter into a “lease-to-use” agreement allowing them access to the EHD for the duration of their program.

Our UTS Help Desk will become an Authorized Apple Service Centre. The iTeach Laptop Centre staff will have Apple Educator Certified Training to enable them to offer more effective support for the academic applications.

\* used MacBooks **must** meet a set of “**minimum**” specifications for hardware and software – **final specifics to be announced**. **NOTE:** the iTeach Program reminds students that MacBooks offering specifications beyond the minimum will improve the technology performance and overall applied experience (e.g., More RAM, faster Intel Core 2 Duo Processor, etc.).