

# iFisher Next Generation Learning Initiative

at **St. John Fisher University** in Rochester, NY



## Today

The iFisher Next Generation Learning Initiative, which provides all Fisher undergraduate students with an iPad and accessories, connects our students to the larger campus community, to each other, and to the world through a dynamic mobile environment. This initiative prepares our students for a world that is increasingly digital, global, and complex and allows them to gain the academic, professional, and ethical skills required to be successful digital citizens. To achieve this desired goal, Fisher not only provides the technology to students and faculty, but also provides the professional development to encourage and support transformation in the classroom, as well as the renovation of learning environments that are required to support effective mobile and active learning.

### Vision

Students strengthen their collaboration skills, increase critical thinking, and expand their creativity through the iFisher initiative.

**\$2,977,000**

in philanthropic support for Fisher's vision for innovative teaching and learning environments.



### Learning

All undergraduate students have an iPad kit and every classroom on campus is equipped with an Apple TV.

**80%**

of full-time faculty have an iPad kit as well, with many of those being Apple Certified Teachers.



### Demographics

3,549 students

428 faculty

Fisher is a private institution offering undergraduate, pre-professional, master's, and doctoral programs.

### Apple products and services

Students and instructors both receive the newest generation iPad, keyboard case, and Apple Pencil.

**100%** of classrooms are equipped with Apple TVs, many with more than one.

Fisher has utilized Apple Professional Learning Services and Apple Professional Consulting Services.

### Success

Fisher has achieved many of the original key performance indicators set out in our iPad pilot and now have

**219**

Apple Certified Teachers across campus.



### What's next

Fisher is committed to the renovation of classrooms and other learning spaces to support mobile technology.

**OER**

expansion will be a focus of further development in the coming academic years.



## Vision

The iFisher Next Generation Learning Initiative transforms the teaching and learning experience provided to Fisher students. Students strengthen collaboration, increase critical thinking, and expand their creativity through this initiative all with an eye toward career readiness for the complex global and digital world. Philanthropic support for the iFisher initiative, as well as the broader vision for innovative teaching and learning, has opened the door for new and exciting teaching practices to flourish across campus. The DePeters Family Center for Innovation and Teaching Excellence, where the iFisher initiative is housed, was created in September 2020 to support the growth and expansion of evidence-based teaching and learning strategies for the campus community and beyond.



## Learning

The iFisher initiative has created a common learning platform between faculty and students, since both groups are provided with the same hardware and software. This has leveled the playing field for students and allowed faculty to elevate their expectations when creating assignments and activities. Airdropping files, air playing during class, collaborative document creation, enhanced note-taking, and access to electronic course materials are some of the more common ways students and faculty use their iPads on a daily basis. The iFisher initiative has also increased our ability to support and expand active learning strategies on campus, increase the digital literacy skills of our students, and encourage the transformation of our students from content consumer to creators of their own learning experiences.

## Success

Crafted into our initial pilot with iPads were opportunities for continual reflection on the key process and performance indicators in order to judge our success. We are well on our way to achieving the results we initially set out to reach and have already achieved many of our key goals. For example, we have surpassed our original goal of 70% faculty adoption within two years and have consistently achieved over 80% of our full-time faculty using an iPad in their courses. This is no small feat considering our program was also launched during the exact time the COVID-19 pandemic was sweeping the country. The adoption and innovation we have seen from faculty and students alike have been overwhelmingly positive.

275	115	219
Faculty Completed Fisher Apple Academy 1.0	Faculty Completed Fisher Apple Academy 2.0	Apple Certified Teachers

## What's Next

Fisher is committed to the expansion and renovation of learning spaces across campus, including both formal learning spaces like classrooms and informal learning spaces like the library, to support flexible, active, and mobile friendly teaching and learning. Three classrooms have already been renovated, six more are being renovated this summer, and plans for the Library renovation are underway. Fisher has also recently been accepted into the AAC&U Institute on Open Educational Resources. This work will allow Fisher to develop a framework to expand the support and use of OER and low-cost course materials across campus, building on the common learning environment the iFisher initiative provides.

## Links

- For our full Apple Distinguished School application website, please visit <https://go.sjf.edu/iFisherADS>.
- For more information about the iFisher initiative, please visit <https://go.sjf.edu/iFisher/>.