Tablet devices have exploded onto the consumer scene over the past year, and are quickly finding their way into academics. While the Apple’s iPad has been the most widely adopted tablet, Droid based tablets, like the Samsung Galaxy, are gaining momentum. Teaching and Learning Technologies (TLT) is exploring the future of these devices and their role in teaching and learning.

**Tablets in Teaching and Learning**

Evolving mobile technology makes it easier than ever for faculty to engage students, but incorporating it into teaching and learning can be a challenge. Through Teaching and Learning Technologies (TLT) tablet initiative, faculty can learn how to give their courses a multimedia boost from mobile tablet devices, such as the Apple iPad and the Samsung Galaxy.

Lightweight mobile tablets are equipped with a variety of “apps,” mini-applications that offer endless opportunities for entertainment, news and even academics. Multimedia-packed mobile tablet apps serve as eye candy for students without much effort from instructors.

Why bother to add a mobile tablet to your classroom? According to Phillip Motley, assistant professor in Elon’s School of Communications, faculty should keep up with new technology as much as possible.

“Look what happened to Borders when they decided not to adapt to changing technology,” Motley said. “If you don’t keep up, you’ll be missing out on so much.”

Here’s a sampling of what mobile tablet apps can do for various disciplines:

- **Physics**: ride a virtual roller coaster, measuring the potential and kinetic energy at each point as you go.
- **History**: go through an interactive timeline, complete with audio, video and photos.
- **Biology**: dissect a frog on-screen without all the mess or pick apart a human brain.
- **Science**: look at a moving Periodic Table of Elements and select an element for an up-close 3D view and complete profile.
- **Communications**: a recorder app makes for easy interviewing.
- **All subjects**: use social media apps, like TweetDeck and HootSuite for Twitter, to keep track of out-of-class conversations, or use the Skype app to bring in a guest speaker from anywhere in the world.
Get Involved
Here are four ways you can participate in TLT’s tablet initiative:

• Try one – iPads are available in Media Services for short-term loans. Contact Media Services at 278-6598 to check availability.
• Have an idea for how to engage students, but don’t have a tablet? – Email tlt@elon.edu to apply for a tablet course loan to use a tablet for a semester or academic year.
• Already have a tablet? – Join TLT’s tablet user group, which meets the first Wednesday of each month at 9:30am in the TLT suite (Belk Library 115). Email tlt@elon.edu for more information or find upcoming meetings on the Technology Training page.
• Follow our blog at http://blogs.elon.edu/tablet/

Apps for Education
Horizon Report: 2012 Higher Education Edition reports the time to embrace mobile apps is now.

e-Textbooks
Will we really go to e-textbooks for education? See the infographic on this site before you form your own opinion. http://infworm.com/future-of-tablets-and-textbooks/

More studies on using e-textbooks:

There has been an increase in textbook materials available for the tablets. There is the digital book, simply a pdf you read and turn the pages; a slightly advanced e-textbook with methods to highlight text, add notes and tags, as well as bookmarks; and then the interactive textbook which is building a huge interest in its effect on learning. The interactive book allows the reader to go beyond just reading the text and viewing the photos. It offers various ways a student can engage themselves into the book through multi-picture slide shows, videos, self-study exams, live links, 360° panoramics, and more.

Some of the companies who offer e-textbooks are:

CourseSmart
http://instructors.coursesmart.com/home?sessionid=9b84615d-a232-4c74-9cb6-1023a7a17e9e&code=&coupon=&freetrialcart=&freetrialcode=

Kno
http://www.kno.com/#he
Inkling
https://www.inkling.com/

Vendors who are offering textbooks in both print and digital, to rent or purchase.
Barnes and Noble.com

Textbooks.com
http://www.textbooks.com/etextbooks.php

Studies on tablets and options to the iPad

Research: iPad Studies - compares iPad use versus paper-only text
http://www.acu.edu/technology/mobilelearning/research/ipad-studies.html

Article: Best tablet for those who don’t want an iPad

General Interest Tablet on Twitter
https://twitter.com/welovetablets

Remote Access using a tablet
A solution to carrying around your laptop versus a tablet. There are several apps that allow you to tap into your desktop or laptop back at your office or at home. They all don’t work the same but they work.

Link for Android Apps used to access your computer remotely.

Link for Apple iOS Apps used to access your computer remotely.
http://appadvice.com/appguides/show/remote-desktop-apps

Keep learning
http://wcet.wiche.edu/connect/mobilizing-higher-ed-with-apps
http://mobile2012.org/