



# 5 Ways VMware Empowers IT Teams in Higher Education

## Meet changing demands of students, faculty, and staff with a cloud-smart approach

**169%**

is how much the average price of tuition, fees, and room and board for an undergraduate degree increased between 1980 and 2020<sup>1</sup>

**49%**

of higher ed students prefer a hybrid class format<sup>2</sup>

Higher education in the U.S. is undergoing a time of intense change. Amid significant shifts in the work and labor markets and economic uncertainty, many are calling on leaders in higher education to align their offerings more closely with modern needs.

Sparked by the global pandemic, the pace of digital transformation has accelerated dramatically since 2020—making technical skills and digital readiness a prerequisite of jobs in nearly every industry, from financial services to construction to retail. As higher education organizations seek to equip students for the modern jobs market, IT leaders play an increasingly critical role in creating a foundation for success.

IT is being asked to ramp up digital offerings and capabilities, support modern apps, and adapt to the changing ways people work, teach, and learn. They must take decisive action in the present, while also maintaining a strategic outlook for the future.

In this overview, we will take a closer look at key challenges impacting IT teams in higher education, and how VMware solutions enable a cloud-smart approach that results in better experiences for students, faculty, and staff.

### IT teams in higher education are facing new pressures

Amid a changing world, IT must deal with more complex needs, circumstances, and constraints than ever before.

#### Students are questioning the value of higher education.

Big, tech-savvy employers are offering skills-based training that promises a job at the end—and students want to know they can build in-demand digital skills at a college or university.

#### Students are demanding flexibility in how they learn.

In-person lectures in a physical classroom were completely upended by the pandemic—and now students are looking for arrangements that allow them to access classes and educational resources online, alongside in-person options.

1. Forbes Advisor, "College Tuition Inflation: Compare The Cost Of College Over Time." March 28, 2022.  
2. Barnes and Noble College, "College 2030—Emerging from the Pandemic: Reimagining Higher Education." July 2022.

Almost  
**70%**

of higher ed administrators and staff want to work remotely at least some of the time<sup>3</sup>

**64%**

of higher ed institutions were hit by ransomware in 2021—an increase of over 20% from the prior year<sup>4</sup>

**55%**

of respondents to a 2022 EDUCAUSE Quick Poll said they are currently thinking of leaving their higher ed institution for a position elsewhere or are anticipating retiring soon<sup>5</sup>

### Faculty and staff also want flexibility in where and how they work.

From fully-remote to hybrid schedules, higher ed faculty and staff want more choice in their work arrangements—without sacrificing productivity, security, or experience. The campus perimeter now extends to wherever faculty and staff go.

### Cybercriminals are increasingly aiming at higher ed.

Colleges and universities have proven to be rich territory for cybercriminals, as many are not equipped to handle these kinds of incidents, making disaster recovery time-consuming and costly.

### IT staff are in high demand and short supply.

The IT talent shortage is acute in higher education. Not only are professionals tempted by offers from private sector companies, but many are also aging out of the workforce or plan to retire early—which would take the situation from bad to worse.

## The hidden risks of modernization

As IT teams work to digitize the campus, support HyFlex learning, and protect sensitive data, they are making the necessary transition from legacy technology to modern approaches. But modern apps and multiple clouds have not made things simpler. In fact, teams are struggling to juggle different app requirements, compliance standards, and cloud management systems.

This juggling act is what we call “cloud chaos.” VMware’s Cross-Cloud services provide integrated capabilities that help you navigate the move to modern digital environments. As a leader in solutions that support digital transformation, VMware is an ideal partner to help higher education institutions realize value and optimize to a cloud-smart environment.

## With a cloud-smart approach, IT can accomplish five key objectives:



1. Modernize existing IT infrastructure to accommodate changing needs



4. Protect student privacy while securing valuable organizational data



2. Provide exceptional digital experiences for working, teaching, and learning



5. Support modern app development to create a competitive edge



3. Streamline multi-cloud management to free up IT resources

3. CUPA-HR, “The CUPA-HR 2022 Higher Education Employee Retention Survey: Initial Results.” July 2022.

4. Sophos, “The State of Ransomware in Education 2022.” July 2022.

5. EDUCAUSE, “EDUCAUSE QuickPoll Results: The Workforce Shakeup.” March 4, 2022.



### 1. Modernize existing IT infrastructure to accommodate changing needs

#### VMware Cloud™

Accelerate your transition to the digital campus with cloud-enabled IT infrastructure and operations from VMware. With a cloud-native digital architecture in place, you can adapt faster to evolving demands and expectations from students and workers, deliver new programs faster, and extend online learning environments into new markets.



### 2. Provide exceptional digital experiences for working, teaching, and learning

#### VMware Workspace ONE® + VMware Horizon™

Enable HyFlex learning environments for students and teachers located anywhere. With digital workspace solutions from VMware, you can deliver applications both on and off-campus, and make it easier for students and faculty to access educational resources on mobile devices. Quickly provision virtual desktops to support blended and collaborative learning models and keep students engaged.



### 3. Streamline multi-cloud management to free up IT resources

#### VMware Aria

Leverage onsite, public, and private cloud infrastructure to cut costs, support remote education, and improve IT agility. VMware Aria helps you realize the benefits of multi-cloud with the convenience of a single cloud delivery solution that standardizes operations, automates key processes, and streamlines compliance. With an intelligent platform in place, your institution will be positioned to satisfy stakeholders more easily and deliver on your mission.



### 4. Protect student privacy while securing valuable organizational data

#### VMware Carbon Black™ + VMware NSX®

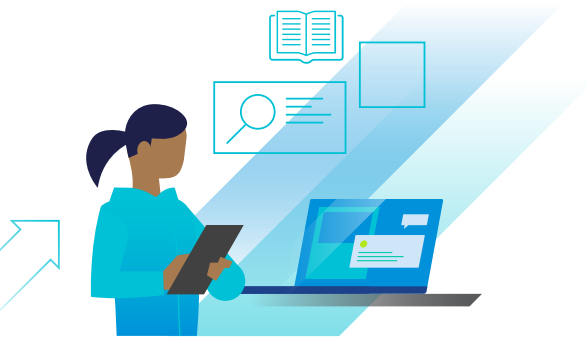
Protect against growing cyberthreats to higher education, including costly ransomware attacks, with proactive security from VMware. With solutions that provide Zero-Trust protection, embrace NIST and CISA frameworks, and align with government mandates, you can better safeguard endpoints and avoid the cost and reputational damage of a data breach. Detect and respond to incidents faster, use fewer point solutions, and gain shared visibility across security, IT, and development teams.



### 5. Support modern app development to create a competitive edge

#### VMware Tanzu™

Step up the pace of innovation by making it easier for developers to build apps on the right cloud—while avoiding the hidden costs of standing up new services and platforms. VMware Tanzu helps higher education institutions extend the value of their IT investments by modernizing workloads already running on VMware vSphere®. It's the fastest way to start using Kubernetes, so you can develop and deploy applications that meet the needs of students, faculty, and administrators.



## Partnering to write a new chapter in higher education

Higher education is essential to the health and economic well-being of our world—and VMware is here to help you develop the cloud-smart infrastructure and strategies you need to create a future-ready technology foundation. Our Cross-Cloud services deliver a modern platform for innovation in higher education that can help you deliver on changing needs, today and tomorrow.

### Learn more

[Find insights and case studies on VMware solutions for higher ed](#)