

8 Reasons Why Moving to The Cloud Drives Student Success

In a competitive, consumer-driven market, institutions are expected to provide greater value to students under tighter budgets. With **agile, cloud-based solutions**, higher education leaders can meet current challenges and futureproof their institutions in an evolving industry.

In a 2022 survey conducted by Hanover Research, 152 higher education technology leaders explained how the cloud drives success beyond operational efficiency to transform institutions.

Here are **eight key ways** the cloud creates value and improves student outcomes, with testimonials from Ellucian customers who have made the shift.

1 Supporting the Full Student Journey

Modern technology helps recruit right-fit students and provides tools and infrastructure to support them through every stage of their journey. By making it easier for users to access the systems and information they need, cloud services enable students, faculty, and staff to work together to meet their goals.

- 46% of institutions measuring enrollment reported a minimum **10% enrollment increase** since implementing cloud-based solutions.
- 54% of institutions measuring freshman retention reported **up to a 19% retention increase** since implementing cloud-based solutions.

2 Holistic Insights

Institutions already collect data on everything from student course schedules to faculty load, but few fully utilize that information for strategic planning. With cloud-based services, institutions can process and harmonize large volumes of data from disparate sources, **enabling real-time insights and predictive analytics** to better inform decision-making and support student success.

Nearly 50% of respondents cited better data and analytics capabilities as a main use for cloud-based solutions.

“With the cloud, the possibilities for innovation and business value really start opening up. **It can trigger change—eventually transforming the way you operate and manage your business.**”

*John Eberle, Chief Information Officer,
Trevecca Nazarene University*

3 Supporting Faculty and Staff

Faculty and staff satisfaction and productivity are the most used metrics to determine the impact of cloud solutions. By integrating once-siloed systems, the cloud connects an entire institution to provide efficient and well-informed support for all users.

“ Cloud solutions have transformed how we work and collaborate. **We can do almost everything faster, safer, more conveniently and affordably than before.**”

Rupa Saran, Chief Information Technology Officer, Coast Community College District

Of the respondents who reported improved faculty and staff efficiencies associated with cloud solutions, **92% reported at least 10% in time refocused** on high value activities. **21% of respondents reported 30% or more** in time refocused.

4 High-impact IT Work

Cloud delivery keeps digital services at the forefront of technology without draining valuable staff time. Without the burden of constant systems upgrades and maintenance, **IT teams can refocus their attention** on improving the user experience and completing high-impact projects.

Colleges and universities that measure IT staff productivity report a 16 to 29% increase in time dedicated to high-value activities.

“ As a former DBA, I remember the day-to-day pressures of managing on-premises operations. Moving to Ellucian Banner Cloud allowed my team to refocus at least 50% of our time on customer service. **Today, we stay two, three, four steps ahead of what our customers—students, faculty, and staff—need and want.**”

Jerry Korea, Executive Director ITS, Wilkes University, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania



5 Security and Reliability

Some institutional leaders still hesitate at the thought of moving sensitive data off-premises due to risk. The right solution, however, will have a far more robust suite of protections in place to **maximize security**. Institutions using the cloud to improve and manage system access report cyberattack risk reduction as the top benefit for migration.

89%

of respondents using a cloud-based solution reported satisfaction with cyberattack reductions.

75%

of institutions describe the cloud's ability to build business continuity and resiliency as appealing.

6 Disaster Recovery

Flexible data ecosystems enable institutions to minimize disruptions and implement new functions as needs arise. The cloud's enterprise-grade data backup and recovery support services **strengthen business continuity** and ensure institutions never miss a beat.

“ If another university reached out to me and asked me what to do in case of emergency, I will let them know that to be in the cloud ... is very important, because **your system won't be interrupted by anything.**”

*Jossie Salguero, Chief Information Officer,
Universidad Interamericana de Puerto Rico*

7 Cost Savings

Cloud migration is a long-term investment in efficiency for both operations and expenses. By reducing costs in infrastructure, software licensing, third-party labor, and manual upgrades, institutions save money while improving data integration.



44% of respondents reported **cost savings of over 15%** due to cloud-based solutions

8 Modern Expectations

Student performance and satisfaction surveys are common measurements of success for cloud-based solutions. Students today expect an intuitive, consumer-level experience from their institutions. With **cloud technology built to evolve**, schools can adopt new features quickly and provide secure, reliable access whenever and wherever their students are learning.

“ Yesterday, it was tradition for students to arrive to campus and walk through a physical door to access learning. Today, it is more important than ever to meet the students regardless of where they are, who they are, or when they want to learn.

*John Grieco, IT Director, Bryant & Stratton,
Multiple Locations with HQ in Buffalo, New York*

88% of responding leaders chose **student satisfaction** as a **primary benefit of cloud-based solutions**

Hanover Research set out to discover what higher education leaders today value in their cloud-based solutions. In surveying full-time higher education leaders who make decisions for their institutions' cloud-based solutions, Hanover found the benefits of agile and secure cloud technology extend to every part of an institution now and in the future.



Charting the digital future of higher education with cloud-ready technology solutions and services, Ellucian serves more than 2,900 customers and more than 22 million students in 50 countries. To find out what's next in higher education solutions and services, **visit Ellucian at www.ellucian.com**.