

Student Response System

What is Top Hat?

Top Hat is a mobile student engagement system that allows instructors to ask questions, take polls, give quizzes, and receive feedback from students during class. Top Hat is a bring-your-own-device system, which means that students can use any web-enabled device (laptops, tablets, smartphones) to participate.

Who is using Top Hat at UW-Madison?

The [School of Nursing](#) has been using Top Hat for over a year. The following departments also have courses using Top Hat: Animal Science, Anthropology, Chemistry, Communication Arts, Educational Psychology, Geoscience, Marketing, Mathematics, Physics, and more.

Should I be concerned about using mobile devices in class?

Research has shown that student response systems can positively impact education. An example of such results is described in this [ECAR study](#). In addition, this [presentation](#) by UW-Madison instructor Ed Hubbard, describes how a tool like Top Hat can work in your class.

Who can I contact to learn more and/or to see a demo?

Contact Jonas Dobransky, our Top Hat account director at 226.236.1580. For documentation, including step-by-step instructions, please visit the [Top Hat](#) website. You can also contact DoIT Academic Technology at academictech@doit.wisc.edu for a consultation.

What if my students don't own a laptop or smartphone?

Students can also text in answers so a smartphone is not needed. If students do not have a mobile device, the student should contact Top Hat support at 888.663.5491 or support@tophat.com and a device will be supplied for their use in class.

How do I add an additional instructor or TA to my Top Hat course?

Email the Top Hat support team at support@tophat.com, or click the support button from within Top Hat to make a request to add additional instructors and/or TAs.

Does Top Hat require a Learning Management System (LMS)?

Top Hat does not require that you use a LMS such as D2L, Moodle, or Canvas. However, if you choose to sync your Top Hat course with your D2L course, your classlist and grades will be paired between the two systems. Class rosters can also be imported into Top Hat and grades can be exported.

What grade is sent to the LMS?

An aggregate grade is sent when syncing with D2L or when exporting grades. For individual graded items, you must look at the grades within Top Hat for all Top Hat activities. The accumulated grade is sent to D2L.

Who provides technical support?

If you need help there are several options available, including the online help tools at support.tophat.com where you can choose student or professor to access helpful guides. You can also call for support at 888.663.5491 between 8am – 5pm, email to support@tophat.com, or go to support.tophat.com and search their knowledgebase.

Who do I contact to learn how to effectively integrate Top Hat into my teaching?

Contact DoIT Academic Technology at academictech@doit.wisc.edu or (608) 262-5667 for an instructional consultation.

Where can I find more information?

For documentation, including step-by-step instructions, please visit [Top Hat](#), the Learn@UW-Madison [informational page](#), or search the UW-Madison KB.

