

# Higher Education in the Cloud: 5 Best Practices in 5 Minutes

**Many higher education organizations** are migrating or planning to migrate to the cloud. The cloud is dynamic, instantly scalable, and can help reduce capital expenditures. As more IT resources are needed, the cloud can be easily provisioned for productivity apps, online courses, web hosting and more. Once you've made the decision to start migrating to the cloud, keep in mind these best practices:

## 1. Create a cloud road map.

Which applications will you move first? For example, productively and mobile applications will touch a large number of end users, many of whom are digital natives. Within Higher Ed, messaging tools are already the most commonly migrated, followed closely by conferencing and collaboration tools. Still, you should ask what is the best fit for your resource level, application stack, and driving needs.

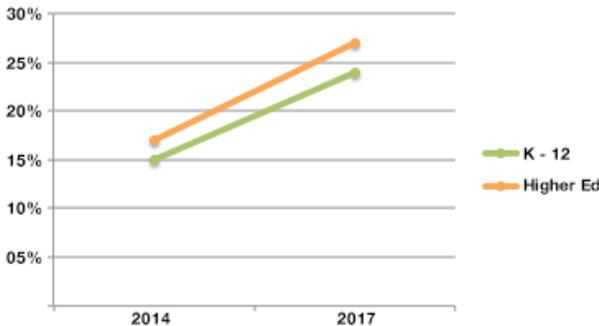
## 2. Know what compliance standards apply to your information — and ask your provider for documentation!

For example, if you accept student payment information, or if your student health center records are in the cloud, you could be subject to the restrictions of PCC & HIPAA compliance. Some state institutions may require a FIPS standard.

## 3. Know which types of cloud services are right for you, and on which type of cloud infrastructure.

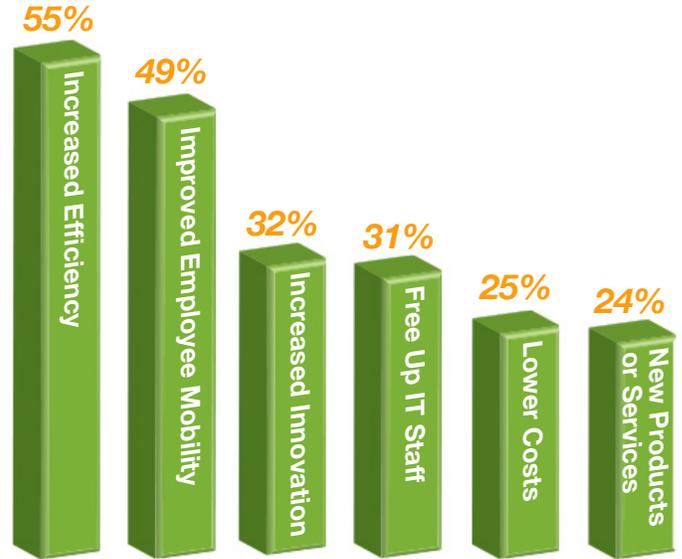
Too often, "cloud" is used as a one-size fits all, which is contrary to some of the true advantages of the cloud, like flexibility and the ability to customize. Do you want to keep your existing data center and back up to the cloud? Make sure your provider supports a true hybrid model. Or, do you want to ensure your applications are deployed across dedicated resources, similarly to how they would be in your own data center? Make sure your provider offers private or managed cloud options.

## Average % of IT Budgets Education Organizations Expect to Spend on Cloud



Source: <http://ansonalex.com/infographics/cloud-computing-in-education-and-schools-statistics-2012-infographic/>

## Why is Education Choosing the Cloud?



Source: [www.edtechmagazine.com/higher/article/2013/02/state-cloud-computing-higher-education](http://www.edtechmagazine.com/higher/article/2013/02/state-cloud-computing-higher-education)

## 4. Get savvy about encryption, and incorporate this into your cloud strategy.

Security will never stop being a concern; however, understanding encryption best practices, like encrypting data before it is transported and using VPN tunnels, will help craft a cloud security use policy that keeps your data protected.

## 5. Recognize opportunities for consolidation.

Individual academic departments may already be using cloud services of different types and a larger cloud push from central IT may provide an opening to ensure departments are following security policies.

There you have it—five quick tips to get you started on your road to the cloud.