

Recommendation Renewing Pluralsight

Prepared for the CITLAR Committee: 2/13/2019

Observation: Pluralsight is a leading self-paced online training platform that provides an opportunity to close professional and technical skills gaps in several critical areas. The company website offers instant access to 5,000+ courses that cover a wide range of high-quality materials and are taught by leading industry experts. In the academic institutional context Pluralsight creates a "flipped classroom" environment where students develop highly marketable technology skills and can achieve their learning goals at their own pace, time, and place. This allows faculty to spend valuable in-class time focusing on the higher level academic concepts associated with the course.

Course paths are relevant to competencies across disciplines (examples include):

1. JavaScript (best practices, fundamentals, object, prototypes)
2. Maya (environmental concepts, character modeling)
3. Python (fundamentals variables, data types and conditionals, unit testing)
4. SolidWorks (designing molded and casted parts, symmetry and basic patterns, working with curves and springs)
5. Video\Animation\Game Design (character modeling and rigging techniques)
6. Photography basics
7. SQL and Web design topics
8. Arduino and Android development topics
9. Virtual Reality\Augmented Reality skills in relevant software environments
10. Specific skills in Adobe Creative Cloud Applications

Application: Pluralsight (previously Digital Tutors) was selected 6 years ago because their course materials are closely aligned with curricular and industry demands. Faculty prefer Pluralsight over generic Lynda.com tutorials because they are more robust, industry specific, and aligned with the practical skills the students are expected to have to enter job force prior to or upon graduation. Unlike Youtube, Pluralsight's course materials are consistently of a high-quality and presented by subject matter experts. They are regularly updated and curated to remain relevant and responsive to the constantly evolving software and professional skills sets.

Between July 2017 and June 2018, NJIT students spent 862 hours viewing 533 unique courses with an average viewing time of 4 hours and 32 minutes per user. The platform is popular among Art+Design, Architecture, Computer Science, Information Technology and Theater Arts students which led to all 173 licenses regularly in use, with 190 registered unique users.

Top 5 most popular subjects:

1. **3D Modeling:** 280 hours, 27 minutes
2. **3D Texturing:** 164 hours, 8 minutes
3. **3D Animation:** 135 hours, 23 minutes
4. **3D Rigging:** 134 hours, 38 minutes
5. **3D Rendering:** 108 hours, 12 minutes

Top 5 most popular courses:

1. **Modeling a Female Character for Animation in Maya:** 61 hours
2. **Maya 2018 Fundamentals:** 58 hours, 42 minutes
3. **Creating Stylized Males in Maya:** 42 hours, 12 minutes
4. **Unity Fundamentals:** 37 hours, 48 minutes
5. **Introduction to Rigging in Maya 2017:** 22 hours and 36 minutes

This past year a price increase resulted in the contract not being renewed. This is problematic because faculty leveraged Pluralsight's content to add value to the curriculum. Students have come to rely on Pluralsight to learn or advance their skill sets. A student petition, which current has 138 signatures, has been presented to College administration.

Pluralsight is connected to NJIT's strategic plan in the following ways:

- **Promote Professional Success:** Prepare students to attain their first-choice destination upon degree completion. This will assist them in gaining professional employment or graduate education.
- **Create an Instructional Culture of Digital Technology**
 - Converge face-to-face and online modes of course delivery by use of advanced instructional technologies. This will lessen the boundaries between the physical and virtual classrooms.
 - Increase the use of digital technology in the classroom. This will enhance the teaching and learning environment.
 - Deploy adaptive learning systems to provide at-risk students personalized digitally-based instruction. This will offer students necessary learning support especially in the lower-level GUR courses in mathematics, the sciences and writing.

Options:

1. **\$19,899 Year-to-Year Contract:** 1 year renewal for 201 licenses (\$99/seat).
2. **\$43,014 3 Year Contract:** 3 year renewal for 201 licenses:
 - Year 1: \$7,638 (**\$38/seat**)
 - Year 2: \$15,477 (**\$77/seat**)
 - Year 3: \$19,899 (**\$99/seat**)

Recommendation: Renew for three years at 201 seats. The three year term would result in a \$16,683 saving and allow time to measure effectiveness and explore further expansion.