

eCampus: An Overview

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The demand for expanded access to online education and workforce training has grown rapidly since 2020. On top of the challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic, work schedules, transportation challenges, and familial responsibilities have made remote learning the preferred option for many Georgians. In response to this demand, the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) piloted the eCampus initiative in summer 2021 to build out TCSG's remote learning capacity to strengthen Georgia's workforce pipeline. Governor Brian Kemp invested \$10.4 million in support for this initiative from the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) fund, an education-centered slate of grants funded by the CARES Act.

eCampus is a platform that allows colleges to leverage instructional capacity for increased access to programs regardless of student location. In other words, students benefit from access to high-demand programs from throughout the state regardless of their home colleges. Meanwhile, TCSG colleges benefit from the efficiency of a shared resource model and deeper collaboration. Through technological advancements and integration with software such as TargetX, eCampus improves the remote student experience from the enrollment process to graduation.

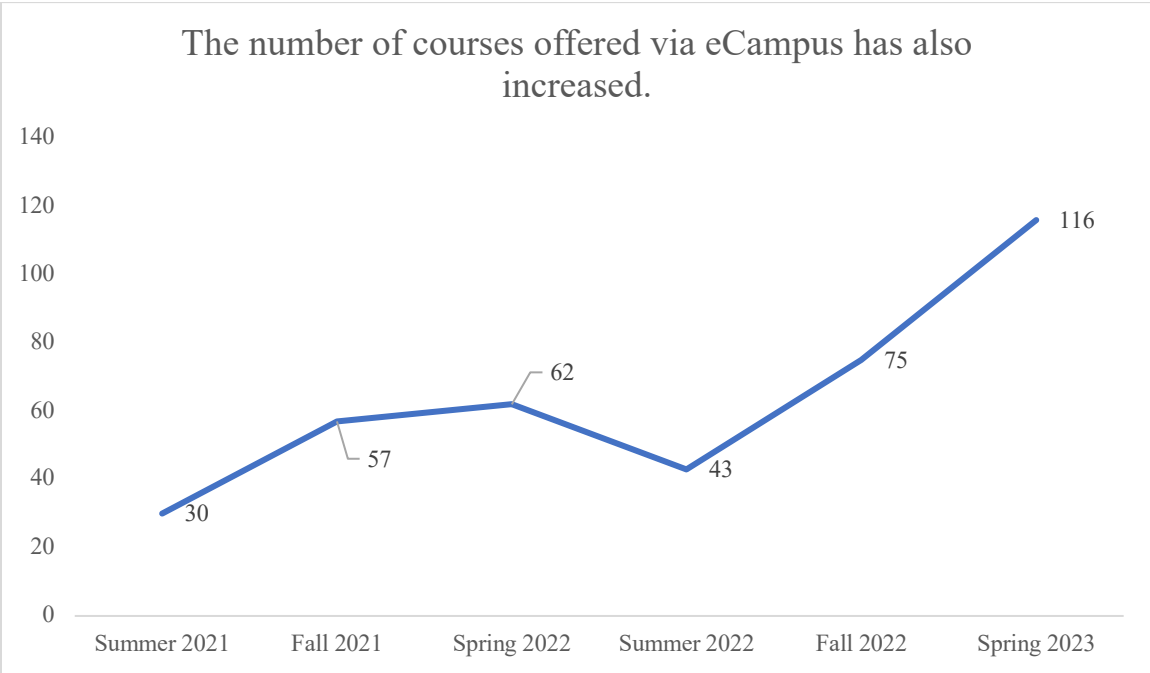
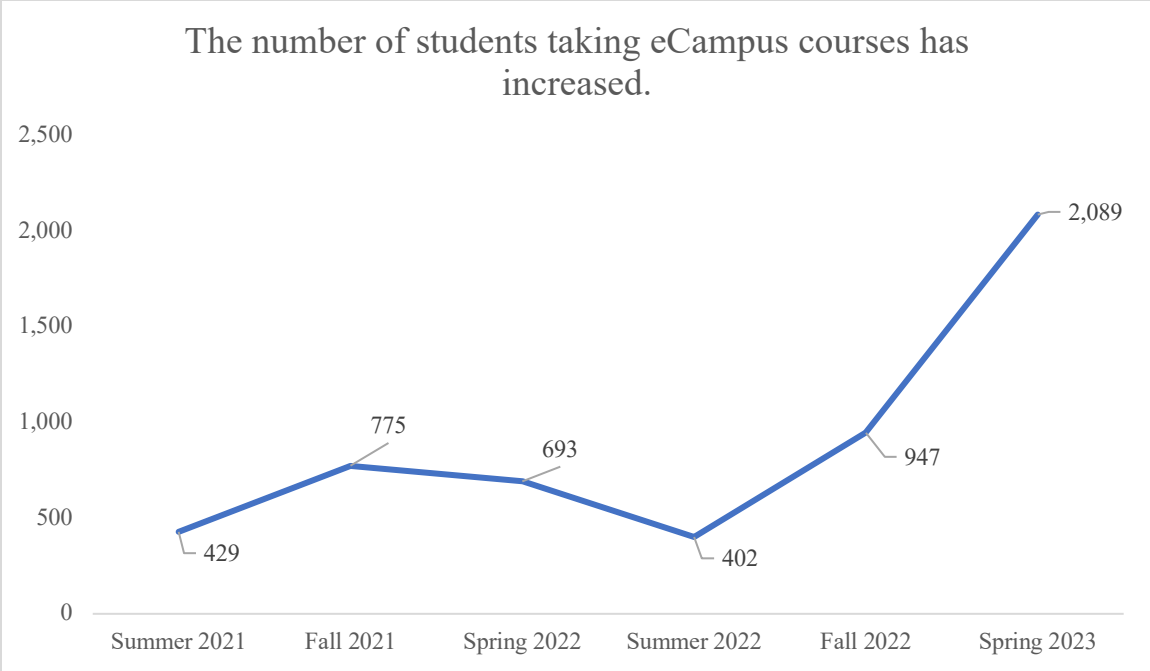
eCampus exists to give students maximum flexibility in courses, timing, and resources. Advances from Ellucian in Cross Registration software will allow students to enroll in online classes across various TCSG colleges, opening up more immediate access to courses that one's local school may not offer at that particular time. This expanded access is a massive boost for

workforce development, fast-tracking students to and through the credentials they need to get them onto their chosen career path.

In keeping with themes of flexibility, eCampus offers students access to synchronous and asynchronous classes, allows for virtual tutoring, and is available to any TCSG student, with no additional eligibility or registration requirements. Furthermore, eCampus does not complicate programs like financial aid, educational resource access, or accommodations for disability, all of which can still be handled through a student's local TCSG college.

As a further bonus, eCampus is a great benefit for TCSG colleges themselves. By expanding student access to online courses throughout the state, individual colleges are under less pressure to be responsible for providing instruction for each and every course every semester. This saves both time and money for the institutions and allows for a greater degree of integration and communication across the college system.

Since its launch in the summer of 2021, eCampus has grown dramatically. Through the spring of 2023, roughly 5,500 students at all 22 colleges have taken advantage of eCampus courses. These students come from different areas of study and background, ranging from high school students in dual enrollment to full-time college students pursuing a technical degree to long-time members of the workforce keeping up with the latest developments in their fields of work.



TCSG offers three programs entirely via eCampus. The first of these programs is a 2-term AWS Cloud Solutions Specialist training, which certifies students to set up and maintain critical cloud infrastructure through Amazon Web Services. The second program is a 6-term Fire Science Technology Associate’s program, an Applied Science degree program designed for working

firefighters to enhance their skills and knowledge and further their careers. Finally, there is an IOS Development in Swift TCC 1-term program, where students learn how to program and augment IOS applications. The eCampus framework is especially ideal for the type of working professionals who typically enroll in these programs.

As referenced above, the eCampus initiative also features TargetX, a program focused on streamlining the college application process and increasing student retention by standardizing practices between colleges, maintaining more consistent and direct contact with students and potential students, and improving on existing application software. TargetX allows colleges to be more responsive to students' individual needs.

No longer a pilot, eCampus continues to expand and increase timely access to educational opportunities for students across the state of Georgia and serve as a fantastic tool for workforce development, all while saving time and money for the college system. TCSG's eCampus team is committed to increasing convenience, standardization, collaboration, and access for the students of Georgia. For more information on eCampus, visit [TCSG's website](#) or contact ecampus@tcsge.edu. Additionally, [this video](#) provides more information on the technology used to deploy eCampus.