

# iClicker Classroom Response Systems

## Introduction

The iClicker classroom response system was developed by four physicists at the University of Illinois. Their system was focused on keeping students' attention on their lectures and course content – not the technology. They refined the hardware and software as they and other teachers at the University used iClickers in their classes. In 2005 the Macmillan company acquired the system and has continued to develop it. In just two years iClicker has become one of the most popular CRSs and is now used by more than 800 institutions, as well as many companies in North America.

The iClicker system consists of a base unit or receiver, a set of clickers, and the software which comes installed on a flash drive when you purchase a system. The software may also be downloaded free from the iClicker website at [www.iclicker.com](http://www.iclicker.com). Teachers may also download several free user guides from this site. The system works with both PCs and Macs. You may buy as many or as few clickers as you need.

**Advantages of iClickers** – Many of the advantages listed for the CPS system also apply to iClickers:

- They are plug\_and\_play right out of the box, requiring no installation for hardware and software.
- Teachers can write their questions on any application, including Microsoft Word and PowerPoint, Adobe Flash, and Apple Keynote.
- iClicker has a “question-on-the-fly” tool that allows teachers to ask unplanned questions in class and assign points after class.
- iClicker has the largest number of published partners in the industry, allow teachers to control what textbooks and clickers they want to use.
- iClickers are simple to use.
- Votes are received and confirmed in less than .01 seconds and the system can process up to 750 votes per second.
- You can poll your students anonymously.
- You can integrate iClicker with your course management system. At ACC that is Blackboard.
- Teachers can export data into HTML reports.
- You can preview voting results before students see them.
- iClickers are cheaper than some competing systems.

**Downsides of iClickers** – All of the things listed under this topic for the CPS clickers except the first one apply also to iClickers:

- iClicker does not support advanced data analysis tools such as data splicing, that CPS supports.
- iClicker only allows five options (answer choices) for multiple choice questions.

- Some teachers (not at ACC to my knowledge) have reported technical problems with iGrader, the software use to assign and record scores.
- Sometimes the base station draws too much power.
- iClicker offers a very limited choice of types of questions.