



# iSALT: A Campus-Wide Support System to Evaluate Technology-Based Instructional Innovations

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## WHAT IS iSALT?

The acronym iSALT stands for the **Institute for the Scholarship of Assessment, Learning, and Teaching**. It is a campus-wide support system to promote scholarship and evidence-based teaching praxis at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Since spring 2014, iSALT has brought a cohort of people from campus each semester to conduct evaluations around technology initiatives and teaching innovations, with the goal of creating scholarly works that can be published in journals or presented at conferences.

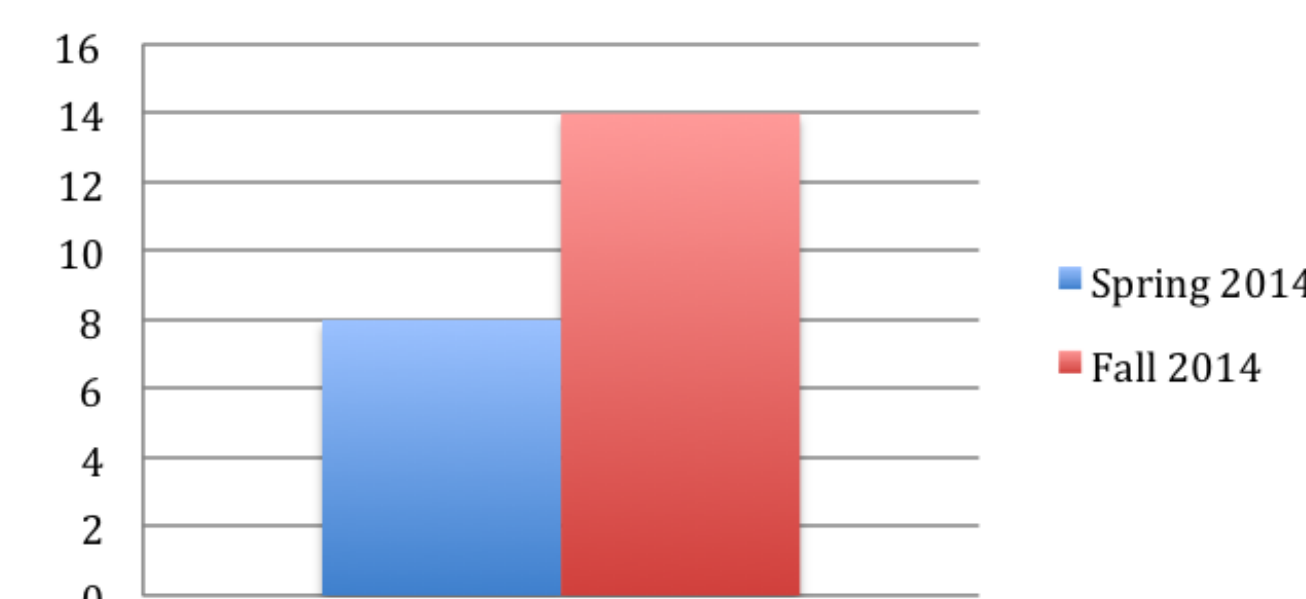
### Cohort Meetings

The iSALT fellows work as a cohort. They have **3 face-to-face meetings** throughout the semester to discuss their evaluation projects.

### Online Modules

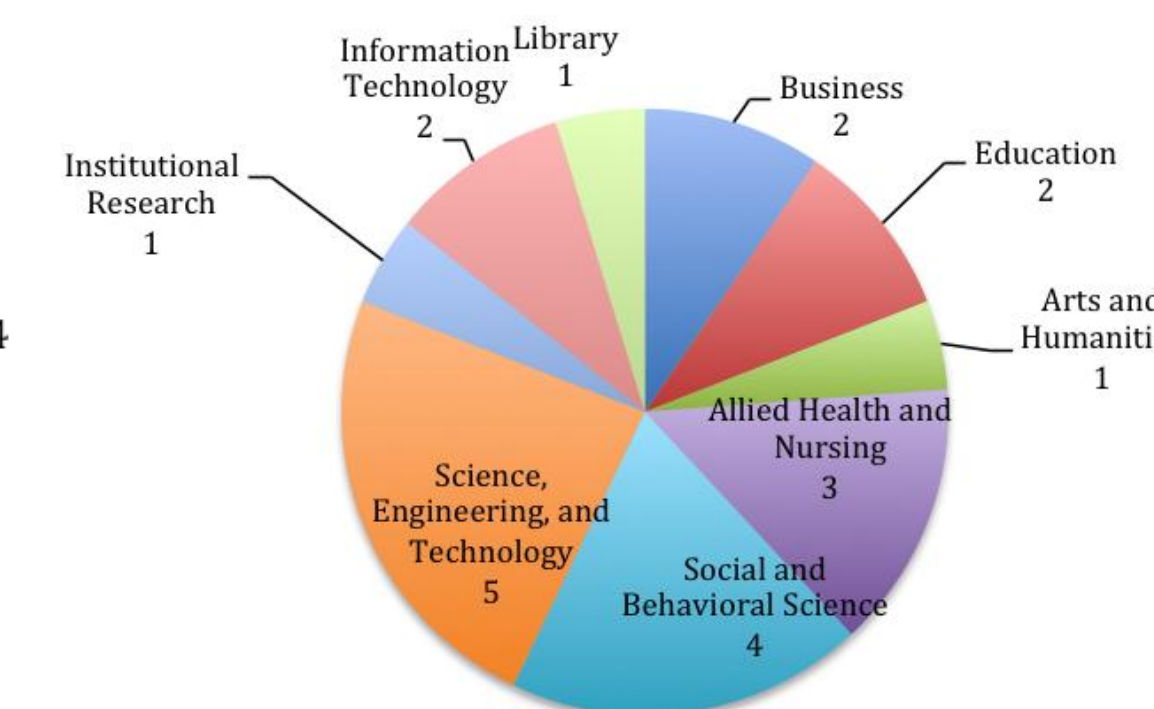
We build online modules including videos, reading materials, and discussion activities to engage and assist the participants in their evaluation projects.

Number of Participants



## HOW DOES iSALT WORK?

Cohort Profile



Informal Conversations

Writing Partners

### Resource Center

The resource center includes:

- Theories which could be adopted as conceptual frameworks for evaluating innovations,
- Evaluation tools, such as questionnaires, interview questions, observation checklists, and inventories.

### Consultation Sessions

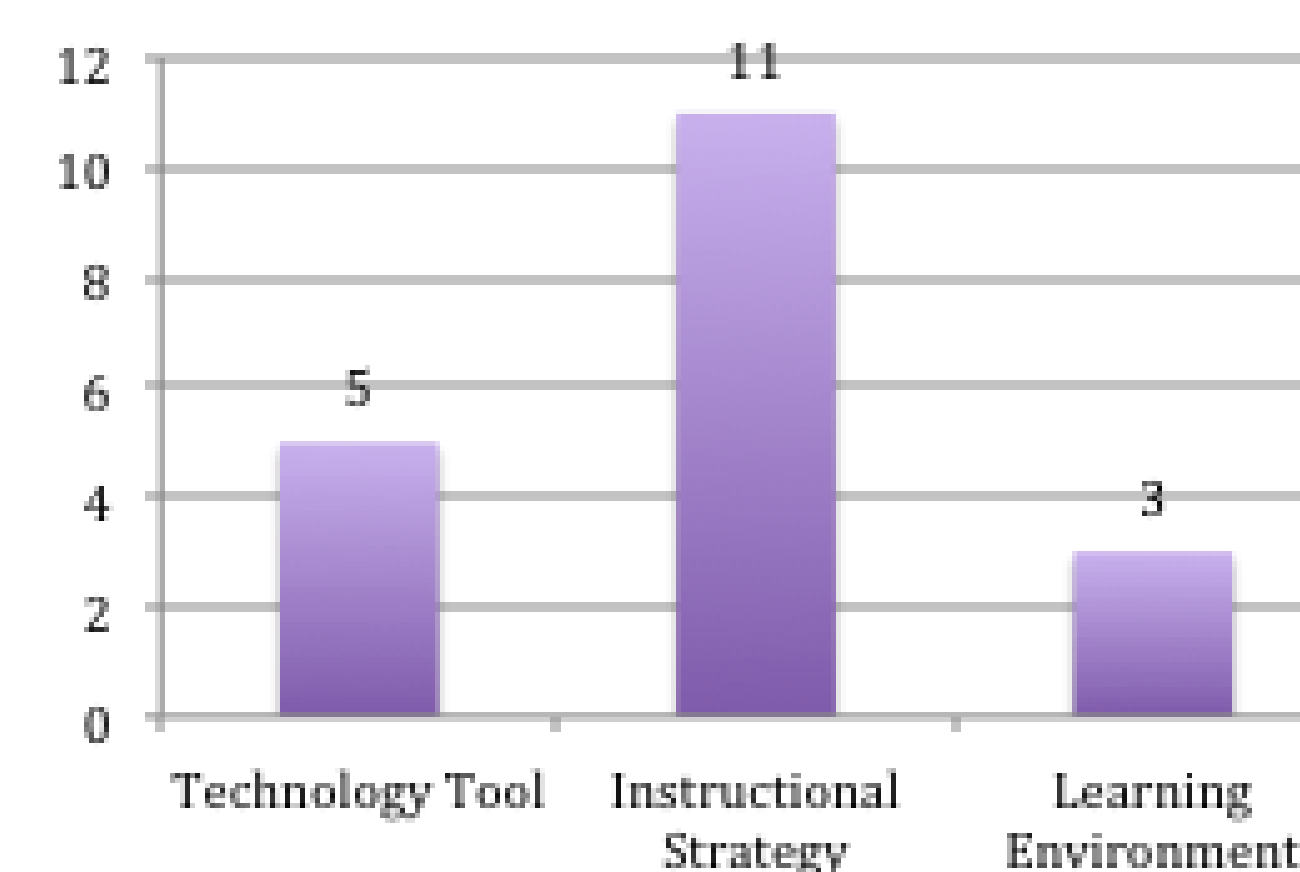
The iSALT fellows schedule individual meetings with the members from the ATS team to develop specific action plans for their projects.

## WHAT DOES iSALT EVALUATE? – EXAMPLES OF iSALT PROJECTS

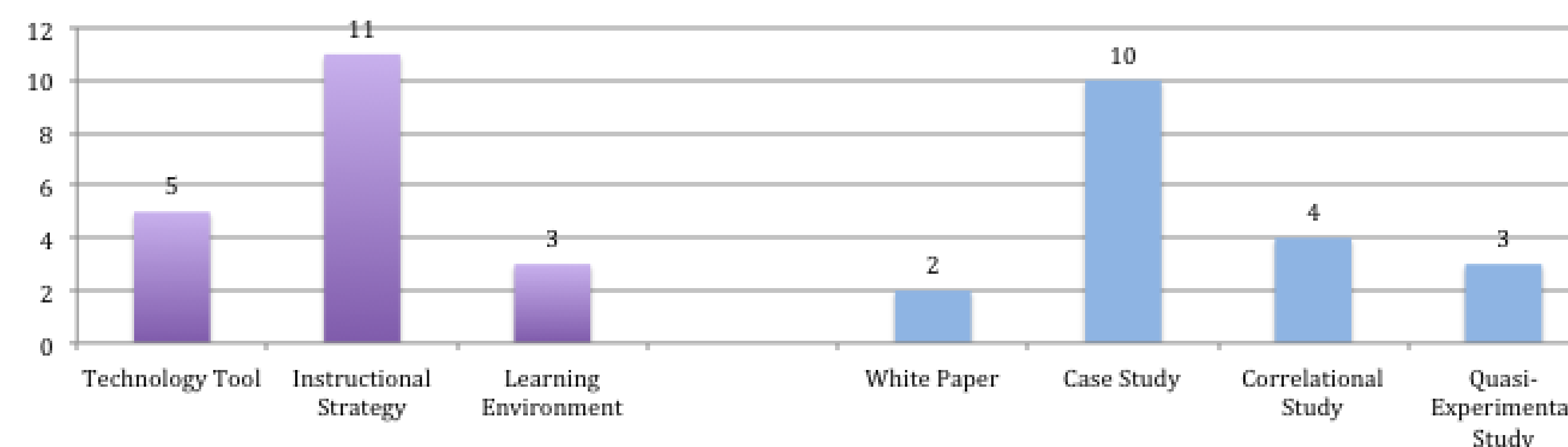
### Overview

- The technology initiatives and instructional innovations that have been evaluated can be generally divided into 3 groups.
- The evaluation design approaches used in these projects fall into 4 categories: white paper study, case study, correlational study, and quasi-experimental study.

3 Groups of Innovations



4 Types of Evaluation Designs



### Group 1 Technology Tool Projects

- Can the use of Twitter increase student engagement in a School Counseling class?
- What are the antecedents of faculty decisions to implement a LMS template to improve online course design?

### Group 2 Instructional Strategy Projects

- Can the flipped Operations Management class provide more opportunities for students to apply knowledge to solve problems?
- Can differentiated feedback messages motivate students more effectively in a Statistics class?

### Group 3 Learning Environment Projects

- What are the faculty and students' experiences in the new collaborative learning space?
- Can the TelePresence environment enhance communication and help develop learning communities?

## iSALT OUTCOMES

### Since Spring 2014:

- Collected empirical evidence on the efficacy of more than 10 innovations.
- Completed 7 scholarly works:
  - 1 article accepted by a peer-reviewed journal,
  - 2 posters accepted by a national, peer-reviewed conference,
  - 3 journal papers and 1 conference paper under review.
- Built stronger partnerships with more than 5 other units on campus.

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