

Top 3 Factors Driving Institutions to Move to the Cloud

1 Security

- **Mitigating Risk:** Institutions are trying to mitigate security risk, but the costs are often out of budget for an institution. No one institution will ever have enough resources to ward off all of the threats it faces.
- **Shifting the Risk Burden:** Institutions have to address many challenges when managing the security of an on-premises environment. It is practical for institutions to transfer the risk and shift the burden to vendors who are larger and have much better resources to manage the cybersecurity threats that institutions continue to face.
- **Putting a Price Tag on Risk Avoidance:** With headlines of extensive data breaches and millions of dollars paid in ransom, it is difficult to put a price on *not* having a major security breach. Institutions often see the cloud as a way to avoid the risk (and expense) of paying to retrieve the institution's critical data in the event of emergency.
- **Finding the Right Person for the Job:** Institutions that choose to manage their own security often have trouble finding and hiring the right security professionals. Some work with security organizations who are not experts in higher education—increasing the risk that the security firm in use does not truly understand the environment of the institution.

2 Student-Centric Experience

- **Student Success vs. Student-Centric:** Institutions who are successful in navigating this nuance understand that the focus for today's students is more on their experience with the institution rather than graduation and employment rates.
- **Holistic Approach:** Institutions are being evaluated on their approach in every interaction with a student. From system design, self-service capabilities to availability of staff and resources, students expect to be provided with the same kind of experience they receive in other areas (i.e., shopping, meal delivery, entertainment options, etc.)
- **Individual Outcomes:** While the cost of college is still a major focus, the measurement of ROI is becoming more dependent on an individual student's outcomes. As student needs change, how an institution delivers an education is just as important as getting one. The ability of the cloud to increase an institution's capacity in areas such as course availability, credentialing, and mode of delivery are critical success factors to a student-centric experience.

3 Operational Efficiency

- Institutions that optimize the cloud for operational efficiency can allow their staff to perform higher-level activities and focus on strategies for delivering a student-centric experience.
- Moving to the cloud provides IT leaders with a strategy for answering the questions they are receiving from administrators on how they are helping the institution achieve its long-term goals. A move to the cloud provides demonstrable strategies in the areas of capacity, scalability, long-term cost savings, improved workflow, and more.