



# STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM

## Top System Features

Faculty reported their favorite features expected from the new PORTiCO system in a recent survey:

1. Business rules to enforce pre-requisite fulfillment (65% support)
2. Dissemination of multimedia quick alerts to announce changes (61% support)
3. Ability to generate class rosters with pertinent student information (58% support)

## The Update

*The Update* is the official monthly newsletter for status updates related to the student information system (SIS) project at the Defense Acquisition University.

PORTiCO, the official name of this acquisition workforce initiative, is a commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) system that integrates critical capabilities including career training management, schedule development, DAWIA transcripts and reporting. PORTiCO is anticipated to launch in 2012, introducing an easy to use, single destination for all acquisition training and resources.

For more project updates, visit [www.dau.mil/sis](http://www.dau.mil/sis) and follow the *In the Arena* blog to view team members' perspectives on PORTiCO's progress.

## FACULTY FEEDBACK: LIKE WHAT I'M HEARING ... TELL ME MORE

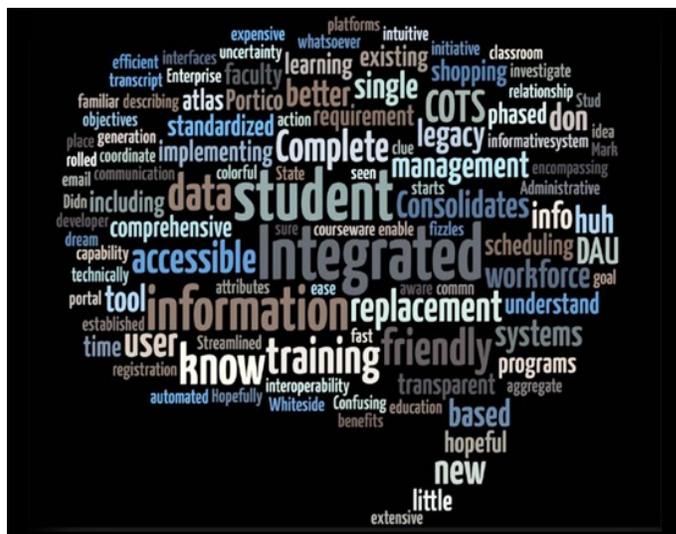
Project wisdom begins with some very basic tenets. Among the first of these tenets: learn to listen.

Toward that end, the student information system (SIS) team launched a couple of key stakeholder surveys including the most recent survey of DAU faculty opinion on the PORTiCO initiative. This new survey, distributed in July, aimed to: (1) Solicit feedback on the PORTiCO implementation effort; (2) Define a baseline for faculty's perceived value of a SIS; and, (3) Capture faculty perception of its impact on classroom management and learning outcomes.

In DAU's survey-heavy environment, another poll is not always welcome. Nevertheless, the survey

vehicle presented the best method to get broad insight into the perceived

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Word cloud formed from the list of attributes faculty ascribed to the PORTiCO initiative in a recent poll.

## FLASHBACK: STUDENTS DELIVER THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY NEWS

When given the chance to evaluate current registration, catalog, certification and DAWIA career management processes, DAU students had no shortage of opinions.

The SIS Student Benchmark Survey, released on June 23, 2010, asked more than 50,000 recent course graduates from all DoD components to provide feedback on current processes and where the system needs improve-

ment. Responses were generally supportive of the current environment, but accompanied by more than 5,000 comments.

Students were most frustrated by trying to obtain personal certification requirements. One respondent offered, "There should be a series of simple large boxes to choose from: DAWIA Requirements, Course List, Courses Completed, Current Enrollment Status, etc."

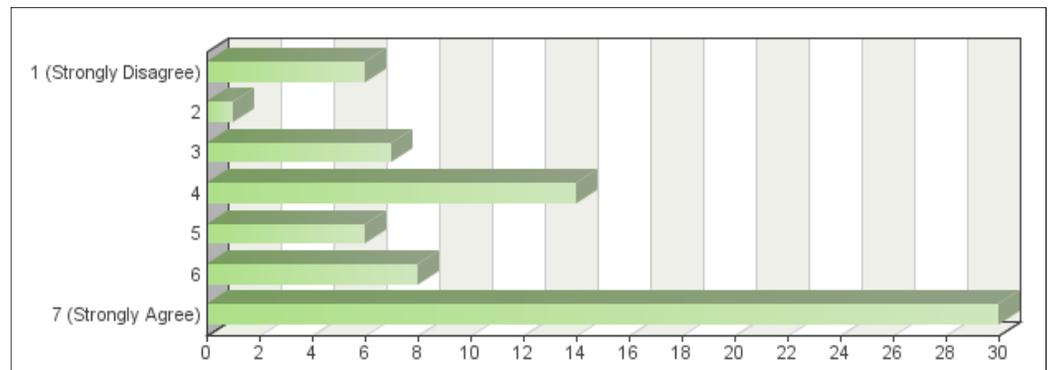
Favorability with the current system increased with age and certification level.

More than 13% of the sample responded to the numeric and open-ended questions. Metrics That Matter, the tool used for end-of-course surveys, generated the SIS baseline survey.

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**Editor's Note:** This article appeared in the August 2010 issue of *The Update*.

## FACULTY DESCRIBE MOST NEEDED SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS



Faculty responses to the survey statement: "I am aware of DAU's implementation of the student information system (aka PORTiCO initiative)."

*"Perhaps an impact briefing of how the system will affect faculty and make their job easier and different, and what impacts it will have on the student ... [would be helpful]."*

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pains and promise of the PORTiCO student information system. Thankfully, faculty members were willing to take the time to provide valuable feedback.

The poll recently closed in August and the team began reviewing the results in earnest. More than 16 percent of faculty completed the survey. Feedback included participation from every region—including several satellite offices—and responses from every acquisition career field. This broad spectrum of participation validated the survey as a good channel for the exercise in listening.

So, what are the highlights? First, 62% of faculty report awareness of the project and 37% are keenly aware. Respondents "in the know" were also asked to associate three words with PORTiCO and many complied (See: attribute word cloud pictured on page 1).

A concerted outreach program to faculty and staff has helped drive

these awareness numbers—47% of respondents have read information on PORTiCO or participated in a project information session. Nevertheless, more needs to be done to drive awareness before the project enters its deployment phase.

Based on specific comments made by faculty, it will also be important to identify the value this new system presents for all acquisition workforce members. One faculty member commented, "Convey the value added, e.g., 'What's in it for me?'" To that end, another faculty member suggested holding "an impact briefing of how the system will affect faculty and make their job easier and different, and what impacts it will have on the student (as faculty frequently get questions from students in the classroom)."

Faculty also provided input on ways PORTiCO can, and should, impact classroom management resources, training outcomes, and communications. Among the favored

system features are: wait-list transparency for students (43% support), ability to generate class rosters with pertinent student information (58% support), dissemination of multimedia quick alerts to announce changes (61% support), and business rules to enforce pre-requisite fulfillment (65% support).

This survey is just one of many outreach elements to continue the dialogue between the PORTiCO project and this key stakeholder group. For the remainder of 2011, the SIS team will continue to update faculty members through a variety of media—the PORTiCO website <[www.dau.mil/sis](http://www.dau.mil/sis)>, monthly newsletters <[www.dau.mil/sis/pages/newsletter.aspx](http://www.dau.mil/sis/pages/newsletter.aspx)>, updates on DAU's Insight Newsletter <<https://daunet.dau.mil/newsInfo/SitePages/InsightChoice.aspx>>—as well as interactive updates from faculty IPT representatives, faculty town hall sessions, and the annual DAU Conference in October.

**Learn more about PORTiCO at the DAU conference!**  
Oct. 18-19, 11:00-12:00 p.m. ET, Howell Auditorium