Technology Readiness – What Does This Matter?

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The growth of student enrollment in online courses highlights the importance of examining online learning environments. Using data collected from a pilot study investigating the perceptions held by undergraduate business students about technology skills, the study revealed a number of pedagogical and programmatic insights about the use of online learning. Briefly put, mirroring related literature, students often consider themselves proficient in the use of modern technology, e.g. chatting, Twittering, or social networking, but it appears to be the "wrong" type for academic purposes. Many students who do communicate with their professors by e-mail often neglect to use punctuation, rarely use standard formatting, and generally include slang or acronyms. This presentation's purpose to share findings from the pilot study, stimulate discussion and offer best practices to help students develop industry expected technology skills.