

# Improving academic outcomes for university students with disabilities who had been identified as 'at risk of failure'

## Sonocent Case Study



*"Of the students to whom we gave the software **we didn't have a single one who didn't increase their GPA.**"*

**Edward Beason**  
Tennessee Technological University

## Executive Summary

The disability services office at Tennessee Tech provide accommodations that can level the playing field for their students. In 2015, staff decided to implement Sonocent Audio Notetaker to help students with conditions such as dyslexia and ADHD take notes independently.

### By implementing Audio Notetaker, the University:

- ensured that students identified as 'at risk of failure' improved their grades and remained at the university
- enabled students to take notes without support and regain control over their studies
- removed the stress and anxiety experienced by students when attempting to write everything down in class

## Challenges

Taking comprehensive notes in class is a challenge for any student. But for students with disabilities that affect writing, spelling, grammar and working memory it can be almost impossible.

Of the students who fit this profile at Tennessee Tech, many were so concerned with capturing classroom instruction, whether by typing or writing, that they weren't able to think in any depth about what they were hearing.

The disability support services office at the university provided some of these students with volunteer note takers, who would accompany them to class and take their notes for them. But not every student was happy having someone else take notes for them. So how could they create note-taking independence and raise academic outcomes for all their students?

## How Audio Notetaker Helped

For an initial six-week pilot, the university assigned Audio Notetaker to the 25 students on campus identified as at most risk of failure.

Disability support staff provided short-and-simple training covering how to use the software to record classes, color-highlight significant parts of the audio and insert slides alongside. They also provided a quick introduction to the free Sonocent Recorder companion app for iOS and Android.

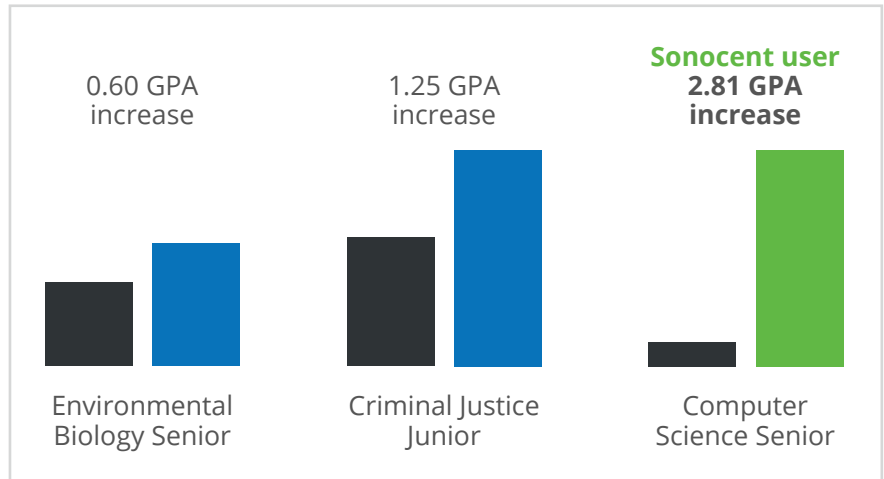


*“We had a student who had flunked the previous semester go to somewhere in the neighbourhood of a 3.0 average. He said that had it not been for the software, he wouldn’t still be at the college”*

Edward Beason  
Tennessee Technological  
University

The students’ loved the peace of mind of knowing that everything from their class was being captured for review. After class, they would revisit their Audio Notetaker project, listen again to the parts that they had highlighted and type summaries alongside the relevant audio and slides.

The results were nothing short of dramatic. Of the 25 students involved in the initial pilot, each one improved their grades and retained their place at college. Consequently, the college are now taking steps to roll the software out more widely.

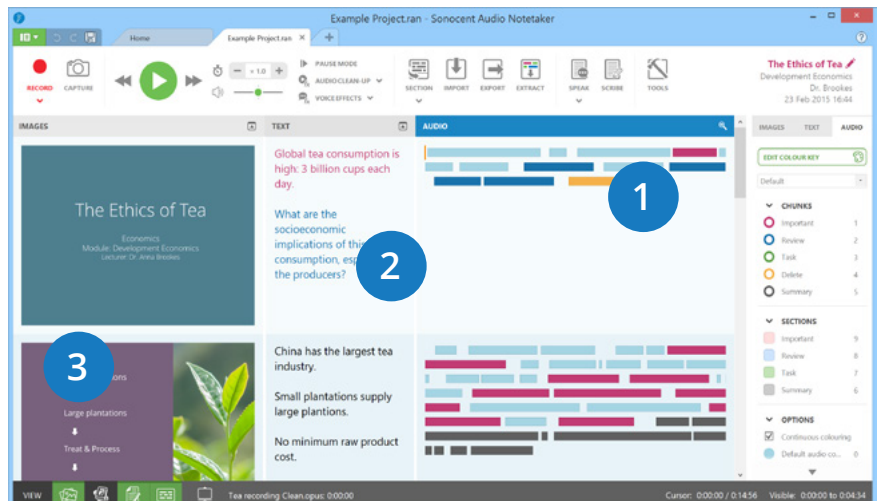


## The Audio Notetaker Workspace

### Schedule your live, personalized demo

Want to join the growing number of colleges (including UC Berkeley and UC Davis) who have revolutionized their note-taking provision with award-winning Sonocent software?

Call **1-202-657-4332** or email **my-college@sonocent-usa.com** to discuss your needs and arrange an online demonstration.



1. Audio is visualized phrase-by-phrase as editable colored chunks.
2. Students can type summaries alongside the audio
3. Students can add lecture slides and images

With Audio Notetaker, your students can focus on what they are hearing, highlight what's important, then come back to their recording and annotations to create their notes. They can also import slides and images right alongside their audio to create multi-media study resources which can be used for revision and essay composition.

