The following is an email that was sent to Instructional Support, regarding the upload speed of Camtasia videos.

There are essentially four temporal 'bottlenecks' along the path from the machine used for recording your lecture to its final hosting on Mediasite:

        Transport of the initial AVI files from the recording machine to the Relay encoders

         Encoding the presentation to WMV

        Transport of the finished WMV from the encoders to Mediasite's import location

         Mediasite's import of the WMV, and then transcoding it to MP4 (having both filetypes immediately available is how Mediasite can 'stream' to any device on demand)

Once these steps are complete, Mediasite doesn't take any time at all for presenting a hyperlink pointer, within the framework of its 'Course Catalog' motif, to your lecture.

The 2 'transport' steps are entirely dependent on network traffic - UF *does* have a fast net, but only when everybody is *not* using it. On 'bad packet days' even relatively small file transfers can take an agonizingly long time to complete (and an hour's worth of AVI is not considered 'small'). Additionally, traffic invariably increases as the day goes on, especially now that everybody streams YouTube and Netflix in lieu of using clunky old disc-type physical media. Presentations recorded in the evening can often take longer to move to the encoders than the lecturers actually took to deliver their lessons.

Also, if a lot of presentations are being submitted during the same time period (which is pretty normal around mid-terms and finals) the nominal amounts of time for the 2 encode/transcode steps are extended by the time they have wait while queued up. But inevitably, increasing either of these 'appliances' processing capacity boils down to cost/benefit budgetary considerations. Thus, I currently tell people that the videos should usually be available within an hour or so after submission, and I'm hoping to continue with that general guideline, even as these services become more widely used.