Student Perceptions: 
Cell Phone Use at UW-EC

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Method

• Participants
  • Using convenience sampling, 350 students were invited to participate.
  • Response rate: 26% (N = 91)
  • Demographics: age 18-20 (71%) 21-23 (24%) 24-26 (2%) 30↑ (2%), gender M (42%) F (58%)

• Procedure
  • Web survey

• Measures
  • An original survey was created for this experiment.

Results

Statistical test used: Dependent samples t-test

Participants rated cell phone use in academic settings (M=6.00, SD=2.46) to be less acceptable than cell phone use in social settings (M=16.97, SD=2.38), t(89) = 31.02, p<.001.

These results mean that our hypothesis was supported.

Discussion

Overall college students understood when it was appropriate to use their cell phones in certain social and academic situations on campus.

Future Research Suggestions:

• Do people use their cell phones as a tool to socially distance themselves from society?

• Do people use their cell phones as a comfort device in awkward or uncomfortable situations; or as a crutch in the midst of large gatherings or social crowds?

Abstract

• This study investigated student perception of cell phone use on campus in academic and social settings.
• We conducted an online survey with 91 participants.
• After analyzing the results; our hypothesis was supported.
• We discovered that student perceptions of cell phone use in social settings is more acceptable than in academic settings.
• This indicates that there should be more research on perceptions of cell phone use.

Introduction

• Our study is important due to the increasing number of students who use cell phones on campus and their prevalence in society.

H1: Students will have a more negative perception of cell phone use in academic setting compared to social settings on campus.
• Academic settings – Large lecture class, small discussion class, professor’s office, and during theatre performance
• Social settings – Davies, after working out, friend’s dorm room, concert at Zorn