

EPC Sept. 21, 2011

Personal Electronic Devices in the Classroom Policy

The University of Northern Iowa is committed to the appropriate and effective use of technology in the classroom to enhance the quality of student learning. This policy addresses the student use of personal electronic devices in the classroom. While the technologies may change, examples of such technology include, but are not limited to, computer hardware and software, cellular phones, PDA's, programmable calculators, and portable recording devices of any kind (audio or visual).

Every instructor at the University of Northern Iowa has the authority to restrict or prohibit the use of personal electronic devices in his or her classroom, lab, or any other instructional setting. It is expected that Instructors will communicate, both verbally and in writing via course syllabi, their policies regarding student use of electronic devices. It is also incumbent upon instructors to make reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities through the Student Disability Services office.

While students may, with instructor approval, use personal electronic devices in the classroom to take notes or do work that is relevant to the class, the following activities are considered disruptive to student learning and are generally prohibited when the class is in session unless specifically authorized by the instructor:

- the use of personal electronic devices to engage in any activity that violates UNI policies and procedures
- the use of personal electronic devices during examinations
- using personal electronic devices to cheat or plagiarize (see Academic Ethics/Discipline Policy) <http://www.uni.edu/policies/301>
- communicating with others via e-mail, instant or text messaging during class time using cell phone, computer, or other electronic device, unless expressed permission is given by the instructor
- engaging in any research, work, or Internet "surfing" not authorized by the instructor
- to record or transmit via audio or visual technology any lecture, tutorial, written material or other type of class material without first obtaining the instructor's consent
- to duplicate, store or transmit material that violates copyright law
- to access, create, distribute, or transmit abusive, slanderous, libellous, prejudicial, sexually explicit, pornographic material
- to harass, bully or threaten another individual (see Sexual Misconduct Policy: <http://www.uni.edu/policies/315>)
- to vandalize, damage, or disable property of the University of Northern Iowa.