

Smartphones Go to College

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Rationale

- Virtually all college students bring a smartphone to class
- Needed to explore how students use these appropriately
 - In class
 - Out of class



Method

- 3 focus groups
 - 7 college students with disabilities
 - 6 nondisabled college students
 - 9 campus professionals
- Questions centered on schoolwork
 - What mobile technologies and apps students use in class
 - What mobile technologies students use outside class
- Transcript notes were coded



Results

Appropriate Uses of Mobile Devices and Apps In Class

Use Google Search

Record lectures

Follow along with the PowerPoint

Take pictures of diagrams and formulas on whiteboard

Take pictures of PowerPoint slides

Take notes in class

Use Google Translate

Access a dictionary or thesaurus

Respond to professor-initiated activities (e.g., polling)

Group work (e.g. Google Docs)

Complete online quiz

View high resolution images

Appropriate Uses of Mobile Devices and Apps Out of Class

Use Microsoft Office, Pages

Check the course management system

Use Google Drive, Google Docs to collaborate

Participate in course blog

Start writing essays on smartphone during commute

Dictate essay

Access online library services

Research assignments (e.g., Google Search)

Use Turnitin

Submit assignments online

Do exams

Read ebooks

Review course PowerPoint or Google Slides

Make flash cards to study

Listen to voice recording of PowerPoint

Watch videos posted by the professor

Provide proof (e.g. selfie at a museum)

Conclusions

- Numerous academic uses of smartphones
- Love them or hate them, smartphones are here to stay!



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