A recent increase in contemporary students’ use of digital devices (e.g., laptops, iPads, smart phones) has generated concern by faculty and staff about how technologies may affect student performance. This study, a multi-year project by an interdisciplinary research team, presents the first quantitative evidence of how students’ in-class use of digital devices affects learning. Specifically, the research focuses on the nexus between technologies designed to engage (e.g., clickers) and others that can result in disengagement (e.g., cell phones). Should we be asking students and colleagues to turn off their phones?

Interview Quotes

“When you go to class, it’s a time to sit down and text.”

“Sometimes people are texting all the time and it really gets annoying.”

“I would say that I probably send sixteen text messages in a class, definitely.”

One faculty member
One post doc
One graduate student
One undergraduate.

Multiple generations,

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