

## USE OF TELEPHONES AND TEXT MESSAGERS IN ACADEMIC CLASSROOMS AND FACILITIES

Telephones and similar devices have become increasingly a part of everyday life. In the academic classroom, however, during class these devices can be a serious distraction and during tests they can be a serious problem. The technology is constantly changing and evolving. So, the present policy does not specify particular devices or device types. Rather, the policy applies to any device that performs the function of a telephone or text messenger.

- 1.0 Each course syllabus must contain a policy statement as to the disposition of telephones and text messagers (1) in the classroom, (2) during testing periods, and (3) for emergency considerations.
- 2.0 The use by students of electronic devices that perform the function of a telephone or text messenger during class-time may be prohibited if deemed disruptive by the instructor to the conduct of the class. Arrangements for handling potential emergency situations may be granted at the discretion of the instructor. Failure to comply with the instructor's policy could result in expulsion from the classroom or with multiple offenses, failure of the course.
- 3.0 Any use of a telephone or text messenger or any device that performs these functions during a test period is prohibited, except when expressly permitted by the instructor. These devices should not be present during a test or should be stored securely in such a way that they cannot be seen or used by the student. Even the visible presence of such a device during the test period will result in a zero for that test. Use of these devices during a test is considered de facto evidence of cheating and could result in a charge of academic dishonesty (see student code of conduct <http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/StudentGuidelines2010-2012.pdf#page=29>).
- 4.0 EFFECTIVE DATE

This policy becomes effective spring 2010.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_/signed/  
Dana L. Gibson, President

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ 06/20/11

**CERTIFICATION STATEMENT**

This academic policy statement (APS) has been approved by the reviewer(s) listed below and represents SHSU's Division of Academic Affairs' policy from the date of this document until superseded.

Original:	July 28, 2010	Review Cycle:	July 1, ENY*
Reviewer(s):	Council of Academic Deans Academic Policy Council	Review Date:	July 1, 2012

Approved:	_____ /signed/ _____	Date:	_____ 06/20/11 _____
	David E. Payne Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs		

**\*ENY = Even Numbered Year**