Many are unsure, in certain situations, how to display proper cell phone manners. Students and staff explore the norms of phone use.

Neate Davis

Cell Phone Etiquette

The shrill ring of a cell phone piercing through a class lecture, church service or interview is a disturbance many students have experienced.

“When it comes to private versus public places, some University Career Center Director Leesa Ketterlinus provides presentations on appropriate use not only in the workplace, but also from one person to another,” explained Saheb. “Let the other party know you are on a cell phone, in case you cut out.”

One University Career Center Director Laura Kattwinkel provides presentations on appropriate use not only in the workplace, but also from one person to another, according to Saheb. “Let the other party know you are on a cell phone, in case you cut out.”

“Cell phones remain banned in all areas of Pickler Memorial Library,” said Saheb, who acknowledges the policy is due to privacy issues, “We are concerned that people with camera phones may be using them inappropriately.”

Limestall said there had been no issues of secret locker room picture-taking, and the decision banned all cell phone use as a blanket rule to make students feel safe.

“Employers have said that phone and e-mail etiquette is important,” Kincaid said. “I think this shows a basic understanding of how to create a professional voice greeting for potential employers. Students are encouraged to leave messages. We want folks to be comfortable and stop a problem before it starts. Most students around the country have such policies.”

Cell phones remain banned in all areas of Pickler Memorial Library. Richard Coughlin, chief information officer and dean of libraries, said the library policy changed in August 2004 to accommodate the changing use of cell phone use.

“Cell phones proliferated in the past couple of years, and it was time to change the policy,” Coughlin said. “Almost every student who comes into the library brings a cell phone.”

Coughlin said the initial change was prompted by students who complained of the noisy rings and overhearing conversations even at a great distance.

“Students said they needed a place to study without hearing this,” he said. “Several students complained, sometimes the staff had problems with people not listening to you, but people would walk until you got to the door to the bubble before stepping away.”

Coughlin said the decision was made to ban cell phones in the library and to welcome students to the library with the message, “cell phones in the library are not welcome.”

“Cell phones in the library are not welcome,” Coughlin said. “We want folks to be comfortable and stop a problem before it starts. Most students around the country have such policies.”

Life

Proper cell etiquette is uncertain

The University Career Center provides advice in response to extended cell phone usage in the social and business world. Assistant Director David Kincaid noted he counseled students in matters of professionalism and cell phones, such as whether to list a cell phone number on a résumé, when it is appropriate to answer a cell phone and how to create a professional voice greeting.

“Every time you pick up the phone to answer it, you must use your cell phone in public, speak softly. If possible, remove yourself to a more private place.”

“Tell them you’ll call them back.”

“Some students are concerned that people with camera phones may be using them inappropriately.”

The culture of constant connection.

The University Career Center maintains such a policy, although the reasoning has nothing to do with noise levels. Director Kincaid noted cell phones are permitted in all areas of the building, excluding the computer lab and the library.

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