

SEPCHE

Nurturing Student Scholars in the Humanities and Social Sciences Faculty-Student Undergraduate Research Project

Research Project: INTERNET USE AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS: FREQUENCY, QUALITY AND IMPACT ON INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Discipline: PSYCHOLOGY

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Project Description: The use of technology as a method of communication is increasingly necessary in our professional and academic endeavors. The methods of delivery are multimodal, from text messages to audio and visual depictions; synchronous to asynchronous. But what about its use in the personal realm? What is known about the impact technology has on interpersonal relationships? Some researchers (Niemz, Griffiths, & Banyard, 2005) have explored the potential for an addictive quality in the use of the internet, while Kandell (1998) specifically discusses why college students are especially vulnerable to this addiction. The question of how such wide usage of non-traditional styles of communicating impacts relationships is worthy of scientific inquiry. Approximately 100 undergraduate students will be surveyed on their frequency of internet usage, prevalence of on-line relationships, and self reported quality of on-line and “face to face” relationships. Results and discussion will be used to further understand this growing reliance on technology and how it may impact interpersonal relationships..

Student Task(s): Students will be involved in the entire research process under the supervision of the faculty. They will work with faculty on developing a literature review, formulating hypotheses, developing a survey, submitting proposal for RERB consideration at Immaculata University, administering surveys, entering data, running statistical analyses and interpreting results.

Student Time Commitment: 10 hours per week for 11 weeks. Some work can be completed off site electronically. Students will work June 2-August 15, with hours per week approximately as follows: meeting with instructor: 1; independent research: 5; complete assignments: 4.

Student Learning Outcome: The students will be exposed to all phases of empirical inquiry. They will be exposed to the scientific method through direct application. Discussion with and direction from the faculty will guide the rationale for how and why research is conducted.

Expected Student Product: The final product will be a written report of the research project and its results. This report will be written under the guidance and direction of the faculty and the students will be authors as well. Students will also be assisted in the development of a summary poster or paper for the final SEPCHE presentation.

Other Expected Outcomes: Students may be able to, with faculty guidance, submit this final project for consideration to the American Psychological Association annual national conference as a poster session or submission for journal publication.