

10 Ways to Use Mobile Phones in Classrooms¹

According to a recent study, over 60% of students and faculty own a smartphone – making mobile learning a reality. Moreover, there are thousands of free and low-cost educational apps that can supplement course learning. The following list suggests ways to incorporate the use of mobile phones in the classroom.

1. **Take attendance:** Some location-based check-in apps can be used for taking attendance that can't be faked or lost. Suggested apps: 1) Foursquare, 2) Gowalla, and 3) Whrrl
2. **Polling:** Take quick surveys of what students are thinking via apps designed specifically for real-time feedback. Suggested apps: 1) PollEverywhere, 2) Socrative, and 3) Top Hat Monocle
3. **Backchannel:** Smartphones allow students to comment and ask questions via a real-time feed without disrupting the flow of a lecture. Suggested apps: 1) Twitter, 2) Vibe, and 3) PollEverywhere
4. **Reminders:** Instructors can remind students when assignments are due, what materials to bring, and other time-critical announcements. Suggested apps: 1) Remind101 and 2) Cel.ly
5. **Image Projects:** Students can take pictures to create visual projects. Suggested apps: 1) Stock camera, 2) Instagram, and 3) Flickr
6. **Audio Projects:** Students can record and share their reflections, peer-feedback, and other audio projects. Instructors can do lecture capture. Suggested apps: 1) Stock audio recorder and 2) Audioboo
7. **Video Projects:** Students can shoot, edit, and share their video projects. Suggested apps: 1) Stock video recorder and 2) Animoto
8. **Remote Desktop:** Instructors to access desktop/laptop with mobile device. Suggested apps: 1) Splashtop, 2) TeamViewer, 3) AirServer, or 4) Apple TV
9. **Taking notes:** Some instructors allow students to snap photos of the whiteboard, freeing students to focus on the content. Suggested apps: 1) Stock camera, 2) Instagram, and 3) Flickr
10. **QR codes:** Create QR codes and let students scan them for quick access to class materials, supplements, and anything else. Suggested apps: 1) RL Classic, 2) I-Nigma, and 3) QR Scanner.

¹ List adapted from <http://goo.gl/dSfRJ> and <http://goo.gl/3O2R6>. Retrieved on 10/30/2012.