

Northwestern | Economics

Department of Economics Suggested Policy Regarding Use of Electronic Devices in the Classroom

Improper use of personal technology in the classroom has been shown to be distracting both to the user and those around them, and to reduce academic performance. Therefore, the Department of Economics suggests that instructors of courses adopt the following policy regarding use of electronic devices in the classroom.

“Student use of mobile telephones and laptops during class is not allowed. A tablet computer may be used so long as it is only used for taking notes and provided it is kept flat on the desk.”

However, instructors are free to choose any policy regarding use of electronic devices that they determine best suits the learning needs of the course they are teaching. Furthermore, nothing in this statement restricts accommodations granted by AccessibleNU.

Approved by faculty vote on April 21, 2026