

FACEBOOK CAUTIONS PRESENTED TO UK 101 STUDENTS

1. Don't post personal information such as phone numbers, addresses, birthday, class schedule, etc. Posting this information can lead to identity theft, theft (someone will know when you aren't home), unwanted personal contact, and stalking.

"I had a guy come to my door," said Susan. "He had gotten my address off of Facebook and he found me. I never imagined that could happen, I never thought that anyone would take a stupid Internet site so seriously." (*Student quote in Kernel, May 1, 2006, page A10*)

2. Use privacy settings (click on "My Privacy") to keep your identity safe. You can control who can see your profile (friends only; friends of your friends; everyone from Kentucky), and you can enter email addresses of people you want to block from viewing your profile.
3. Read and follow Facebook policies (e.g., no obscene pictures and copyright violations); however, following the policies doesn't guarantee security.
4. Remember it's the WORLD Wide Web. Don't post anything that you wouldn't want your parents, potential employers, friends, roommates, professors, or school administrators to see.
5. An increasing number of employers "facebook" potential interview candidates. In a 2005 survey of executive recruiters, 26% told ExecuNet that they had eliminated job candidates based on Internet searches of them. (*Minneapolis-St. Paul Star Tribune, April 3, 2006*)
6. Information posted can haunt you for years to come. Even if you delete the information or pictures, someone else may have already downloaded the information.
7. University administrators are sanctioning students based on Facebook information.

The University of California is disciplining students for illegal activity (like underage drinking in the dorms) based on pictures and information posted on Facebook.

Penn State University police used Facebook to identify and prosecute students who rushed the field after OSU game.

At UK, when conduct issues arise on Facebook, they are addressed. (The administrators don't "surf" Facebook; they address it when it's brought to their attention.)

8. Athletes may be kicked off a team and lose their scholarship because of Facebook postings or pictures. Coaches and athletic directors (including UK's athletic director, Mitch Barnhart) are cautioning student-athletes about Facebook. (*USA Today, March 8, 2006*)
9. Student employees may lose their jobs because of Facebook postings or pictures. (This has occurred at UK.)
10. Be aware of how easy it is to waste time on Facebook. It's addictive!

"As a college student, you are always looking for an excuse not to study, and Facebook is the ultimate answer. I'm ashamed to say it, but I have wasted many hours browsing through it." Christy, UK Sophomore
11. Don't take things at "face value." It's very easy for people to misrepresent themselves on the internet.