

## AIO Cell Phone/Electronics Policy

The Acadia Institute of Oceanography has implemented a no cell phone and no electronics policy. These electronics include but are not limited to iPad, iPod, kindles, electronic video games and laptops (an iPad or laptop required for note taking must be cleared in advance with the Director). As cell phone service providers have discovered Mt. Desert Island, more service has become available. Rather than having students focused on trying to get a signal, texting and generally spending time with their heads down looking at the phone we prefer they spend time engaging with other students. Students traveling alone to AIO will want their cell phone to stay in touch with family until they arrive so we will collect the phones on arrival day and return them on the last day.

We continue to maintain a landline from which students can receive or make free calls in the US or Canada during free time blocks (1-2 pm, 5-6 pm and 9-10 pm). That number is 207-276-9364. Students can also receive emails on the program computer kept in the lecture hall. Be sure they have a useable email address that doesn't require verification so that they can access it from our computer. This is most often an issue with a Gmail account. To avoid dealing with verification codes we recommend they create a new email address on our computer while at AIO and share that with those they'd like to hear from. Something simple like

We have 2 desktop computers with internet and word processing capability for the student's use.

If students wish to take photos they should bring a digital or film camera. We also take lots of photos and post them regularly on Facebook and then on Flickr, where you can download them. We encourage students to bring a book or borrow one from our library.

Though we realize it can be difficult for parents to not speak with their child every day, they will be engaged in new activities, new friends, and a busy schedule. Our Facebook page will keep you updated with regular posts and photos. Rest assured we would contact you if there are issues that your child is struggling to overcome, or if there are any medical issues. You are also always welcome to contact me to "check in" on how your child is doing. I do teach within the program so, if you don't get me on the phone right away, understand that I'm with your kids and that I'll return your call or email when I'm free.

Thank you for understanding and helping to enforce these policies at AIO.

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