

UW-La Crosse Informed Consent Document

Project Title: Social Media Use and Mental Health

Principal Investigator: Student PI name, email address or Faculty/Staff PI name, dept., phone, email address

Faculty Mentor: Faculty PI name, department, phone, email address

Commented [KK1]: Only include this if the PI is a student.

Purpose & Procedure: This study examines how social media use is linked to mental health. Your participation involves taking a 15-minute online survey. The survey asks questions about your social media use, mental health, age, and gender.

Potential Risks: There is no more than minimal risk expected from participating in this study. There is a possibility that responding to questions about your mental health could be emotionally distressing. If you experience any distress, UWL students can reach out to the Counseling and Testing Center on campus (608-785-8073). You can also contact a confidential crisis counselor by calling/texting 988. These resources will also be provided to you at the end of the study.

Commented [KK2]: Indicate any potential risks or discomforts of study participation and what is being done to mitigate risks.

Confidentiality: All data will be kept confidential to the extent legally allowable. Although no data can be 100% securely stored, several precautions will be taken to maintain data confidentiality and protect your privacy. Your name or other identifying information will NOT be collected in this survey. If participating through Sona, a random ID will connect your data to Sona to award you credit. The researchers will not use this ID to identify you. Data will be stored on Qualtrics and UWL secure networks and password protected computers. Results of this study may be presented or published, but those results will not include personally identifying information.

Commented [KK3]: This is only needed if your study is about sensitive topics that have a greater chance of eliciting emotional distress in participants.

Commented [KK4]: The first two lines in this section should be included for most projects. Following this, you should explain what personally identifying information will be collected, if any, and steps you are taking to maintain confidentiality.

Commented [KK5]: This specific information is only relevant for psychology research studies. For other studies that have incentives with anonymous surveys, it's important to note how a participant's identity will be determined so that the incentive can be awarded. Ideally, participants will not record their name/email in the research survey itself, but they could be directed to a second survey to record this information at the completion of the research survey.

Your Rights: Participation in this study is voluntary. You can refuse to participate, withdraw from the study at any time, or refuse to answer any questions without penalty or loss of benefits.

Data Sharing: Your deidentified data may be used in future studies, shared with other researchers, or provided to research journals and/or data sharing sites. Deidentified data has personally identifying information permanently removed from the data file.

Commented [KK6]: If you know for certain that you will not be sharing the data with anyone else or using it for other purposes, you can instead include here that the data will only be used by the study researchers for the purposes described here.

Potential Benefits: There are no direct benefits to you of participating in this study. Researchers and others may benefit from learning about links between social media usage and mental health.

Commented [KK7]: If there are potential direct benefits to participants, include that here instead (this is rare). Incentives are not benefits.

Incentives: If you are a UWL student participating through Sona, you will receive credit or extra credit for a psychology class after finishing this survey. If you do not want to finish the survey or participate in research, there are non-research options for earning this credit outlined in your course syllabus or Canvas site.

Commented [KK8]: Leave this section off if there are no study incentives. If incentives are monetary or drawings, include specifics about how and when they will be awarded. For course credit/extra credit incentives, there must be a non-research alternative available to students to receive this credit, which should be explained here.

Questions? If you have questions about this study, you may contact the principal investigator or faculty mentor (see contact information above). If you have questions about your rights as a research participant, you may contact the UWL Institutional Review Board (irb@uwlax.edu).

If you are at least 18 years of age and agree to participate in this study, click on the arrow below to continue. Completing this survey means you are giving your consent.

Commented [KK9]: Include this line rather than asking for participants to sign/record their name.