Background
The purpose of this study was to benchmark Texas A&M students’ use of instant messaging. Contact was attempted with a total of 1,666 students. Of those, 27%, or 472, were wrong numbers. For the remaining 1,194 students, 73%, or 872 students, agreed to participate in the survey.

Results
Do you own a personal computer?
• 94% said yes

Do you use instant messaging?
• 72% said yes

FOR THOSE WHO USE INSTANT MESSAGING
Which instant messaging program(s) do you currently use (mark all that apply)?
• 81% use AOL Instant Messenger

What type of devices do you use for instant messaging (mark all that apply)?
• 74% used a home desktop

For the following groups of individuals (friends, classmates, family, etc.), what form of communication do you currently use (mark all that apply)?
• 75% used instant messaging to contact friends
• 34% used instant messaging to contact classmates
• 19% used instant messaging to contact family

On average, during the academic year, how many hours per day are you logged onto your Instant Messaging account?
• 43% said 1-5 hours per day
• 36% said 16 or more hours per day

During the academic year, estimate the number of hours per week you spend instant messaging doing the following:

Communicating with classmates about academic work
• 65% said 1-5 hours per week

Communicating with instructors
• 93% said 0 hours per week

Communicating socially with friends
• 59% said 1-5 hours per week

Communicating with family members
• 54% said 1-5 hours per week

Communicating with strangers
• 90% said 0 hours per week

For you, how has instant messaging changed your usage of other forms of communication?
• 44% said e-mail use stayed the same
• 51% said telephone use decreased
• 67% said face-to-face interaction stayed the same

Please rate your level of agreement with the following statements:
• 91% agreed or strongly agreed that they are comfortable using instant messaging as a communication tool.
• 60% agreed or strongly agreed that instant messaging has had a positive impact on their college academic experience in general.
• 70% agreed or strongly agreed that instant messaging has been beneficial in relationships with classmates.

How many of your instructors use instant messaging as a communication tool?
• 89% said none

Would you like to increase your ability to communicate with TAMU faculty or staff via instant messaging?
• 55% said yes

Have you ever received an instant message from a stranger that made you feel uncomfortable?
• 39% said yes

Have you ever received an instant message from a friend or acquaintance that made you feel uncomfortable?
• 16% said yes

Have you been harassed (threats, badgering, name calling) over instant messaging?
• 18% said yes

Prepared on: June 29, 2005
For a complete report, please visit the Student Life Studies web page.