

## **Título: THE USE OF SOCIAL NETWORKS IN MICROBIOLOGY TEACHING**

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### **Abstract**

Social networks attract thousands of people as a form of social interaction that favors communication. Facebook® is one of the most accessed social networks and offers many possibilities of information, images, videos and other electronic media exchange. Nowadays the development of technology of information provides access to an extraordinary amount of information and the use of these technological tools should be considered by the teacher as a way to reach a generation habituated with the language. The goal of this study was to evaluate the use of Facebook as a tool in the teaching/learning process. The study included 50 students of biomedicine course at the Federal University of Goiás - Regional Jataí. In the first lesson of discipline of Bacteriology, the teacher informed the students that he would create a page on Facebook in order to help in the communication with the class. During the semester, this space was used for activities such as communication between teacher and students; discussion of the assessments; integration of current articles and materials about what was discussed in class, among others. The materials and articles were attached without expressly be asked to read and also not composed material to be evaluated later. At the end of the semester, the last day of class, the teacher applied a questionnaire containing statements which the students should mark the level of agreement. The results showed that students considered the use of the social network as a good alternative. The statements whose highest percentage of students fully agreed with the proposal statement were: improving teacher-student communication (80%); improving the discussion about the class contents (60%); increasing the interest by the students for the course (48%); improving the understanding of the content (60%); improving in contextualization of the content (60%); improving in learning (38%) and better use in discussions during the exams (60%). Also, most participants reported that they had accessed and read the texts proposed on the facebook page. Importantly, three students also posted reports and materials they deemed interesting and they wanted to share with the group. This experiment demonstrated that the use of social networks could be an alternative to arouse the attention and motivation of students as well as promote greater interaction and understanding of the content during the classes.

**Keywords:** Facebook; Teaching strategy; Microbiology teaching.