Overview
When high school students transition to college, the social media oversight and guidance that they experience from the adults in their lives may change. During high school, social media use is simultaneously discouraged and monitored by many parents and teachers/schools, whereas in college settings it tends to be institutionally ignored and parents may no longer in a position of direct oversight.

The purpose of this study is to examine closely how social media habits and attitudes develop as young adults transition from high school to college, to see if the shift from heavy to minimal adult oversight results in a concurrent shift in social media activity. Specific areas of investigation include transitions in (a) privacy beliefs and habits, (b) social media use among peers, (c) social media use for extracurricular purposes, and (d) perceptions of monitoring forces.

Overview of Findings
Participants who reported using social media for school activities and job seeking maintained a strong sense of being monitored by others, as found by Freitas (2017). While they knew they should be cautious about what they post on social media they lacked a sense of how to interact with adults online. Interestingly, while students reported being on social media heavily, the indicated a very low level of sharing online.

Implications and Next Steps
Next steps include a survey as well as additional interviews. Let us know if you want to be notified of new publications and findings from this project!

This study has implications for social media education and guidance for students at the high school and university levels.