Academic Honesty and Cheating on Online Course Exams

General Recommendations

1. Implement several processes and tools to discourage and prevent cheating as a joint effort in the areas of: Institutional Context and Commitment, Curriculum and Instruction, Faculty Support, Student Support, and Assessment and Evaluation.

2. Do not rely on automated assessments. If you must use them, be sure to:
   a. Pool assessment items.
   b. Use different assessment pools each time the course runs (or every other time for courses that run every five weeks).
   c. Give students a time limit for assessments.
   d. Set the assessment to automatically save student work and submit answers at the end of the time limit.
   e. Have the assessment accessible only for a specific amount of time (for example, opens on a Thursday, and closes on a Sunday).
   f. Routinely review start and end times for exams to identify anyone who takes an unusually short period of time to complete an exam.
   g. Assume all online exams will be “open book.” As such, develop exam questions that require students to a) either know the material thoroughly, or b) look in several places in the text to construct the answer.
   h. Only use automated assessments for progress monitors/content checks that are a small percentage of their grade. That way, the majority of the grade and course is made up of assignments addressing the higher levels of Bloom’s such as Analyzing, Evaluating, and Synthesizing. If instructors rely on automated assessments, they are most likely only addressing the lower levels of Bloom’s such as Remembering and Understanding. Making this change may be the best change to make. It will not only help prevent cheating, but will also make the course much richer and more dynamic.

3. California State University, Sacramento provides a list of helpful strategies (displayed below) in their article titled, Online Exams Strategies to Minimize Cheating (2010) for making online exams more secure:
   a. Randomize the answer choices for each question.
   b. Randomize the questions on the test.
   c. Use question sets. Randomly choose which questions from the set are displayed to each student.
   d. Create a large bank of test questions.
   e. Display one question at a time.
   f. Set a time limit for the test. Students need to know the material to answer questions correctly, with little time to look up answers.
   g. Prohibit answer submission if time has expired.
h. Do not release the student's test score until the availability time has ended.
i. Do not release results to the students or at least not the answers to the assessment.
j. Do not review the test in a group setting with your students. Test results can be reviewed online with an individual student via the faculty office hours.
k. Calculated questions, typically used in math and science courses, include variables in the question wording. Variable values are randomly generated, so students given the same question must give unique answers.
l. Allow students to take a proctored exam.

http://onlinecampus.uwf.edu/class/proc_exams.cfm

m. Have students sign an academic honesty statement that summarizes the expectations and requirements.

n. Combine objective tests with other methods of assessment, such as group projects and writing assignments. Essay questions also make it difficult for students to cheat on a traditional assessment (students know that the instructor may recognize an answer that has been copied).

4. Technology solutions such as Turnitin.com can be used in creative ways to be sure students are not cheating on essay exams.

a. Faculty members can create an assessment with a limited time release for essay questions and then request students turn them into Turnitin.com. The amount of time should allow for some flexibility but limit the time students have to turn in the assignment. For example, have a two day window to take the exam with the expectation that they submit their answers within 3 hours of opening the essay questions.
b. Include multiple questions in the essay set that rotate randomly to limit cheating on the essay exam.
c. It is important to look closely at the Turnitin.com report when evaluating whether or not students cheated on essay questions rather than relying on the number itself. You can expect a higher level of overlap in the report because students will often use word for word definitions of concepts from the course materials. Specifically asking students to provide quotes around those materials with a quick reference can help clarify this issue.

Sample Policies and Tips

California State University, Sacramento. Online Exams Strategies to Minimize Cheating.
http://www.csus.edu/webct/faculty/online-exams-best-practices.pdf

Oklahoma State University. Tips to Prevent Cheating.
http://academicintegrity.okstate.edu/doc/aistopcheatingtips.pdf

University of Texas at Arlington. Office of Student Conduct Faculty Page.
http://www.uta.edu/studentaffairs/conduct/faculty.html
Online Learning and Academic Dishonesty in Academic Peer-reviewed Publications


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam Security Tools</th>
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- Advanced technology to monitor students online during exams  
- White label options to maintain the look and feel of your brand  
- Recording of all exam session data including video, audio and keystroke information.  
- Pre-exam system testing for students to lessen test-day stress of technology connections  
- Online room monitoring to our customers who want to view real time proctored sessions and view students  
- Provide training for proctors and faculty | B Virtual is an innovative provider of outsourced support products and services, with clients across North America and around the world. Key to our success is our dedication to building partnerships. Innovations in enterprise digital education are at the heart of what we do. From there, we combine this education innovation with our expertise in managed services. This allows us to assist companies in providing optimal education and support services. | Loyalist College, Canada |
| Caveon Web Patrol: http://www.caveon.com/ | - Cheating-detection software to analyze test results.  
- Caveon Web Patrol monitors the Internet for information and communications pertaining to client testing programs.  
- Faculty training. | Caveon applies proprietary cheating-detection software to analyze district, school, and classroom test results. Provides detection, remediation, and prevention services. | Client List http://www.caveon.com/clients/ |
### ExamSoft:
**http://www.examsoft.com/main/index.php.**
- Exam Design
- Exam Delivery
- Scoring & Analysis
- Admin Services
- High stakes legal, medical, and certification exams
- Very powerful data analysis

Examsort is a solution for computer-based assessment delivery with several security features mainly designed to block access to external tools and websites. Used often in high-stakes testing contexts where test takers use lab computers or even their own laptops.

- The University of Georgia College of Pharmacy; Board of Environmental, Health & Safety Auditor Certifications (BEAC); Ohio State University College of Medicine; UC Hastings College of Law; Stetson University College of Law; UNLV Law School; University of Iowa College of Law; University of Southern California Law School; UC Davis; McGeorge School of Law; Morehouse School of Medicine

### ProctorCam:
**https://www.proctorcam.com/**
- Online proctor database
- Allow proctored tests to be taken online with the same level of supervision (if not more) as face to face proctors.
- Use functionality that integrates into any course management or online testing system.

ProctorCam is a virtual online proctoring service offered to test takers and organizations that require proctored tests. Test takers no longer have to drive to a proctored site or use unfamiliar equipment. Provides organizations the ability for test takers to take their exams using their own equipment, at their convenience and at their chosen location.

- Boston University Online
- William Peace University

### Kryterion:
**http://www.kryteriononline.com/**
- Audio monitoring
- Real time monitoring
- Locks a test taker's system
- Remote certified proctors
- Online proctoring
- Behavior alerts
- Secure authentication and delivery
- Test development

Kryterion online proctoring solutions accommodate on-board cameras commonly found on today's laptops and more advanced USB cameras that offer wider view of the test taker and surrounding environment.

- American Council of Credited Certification; National Air Duct Cleaners Assoc.; ASTD Certification Institute; International Electrical Testing Association, Western Governor’s University.
| Software Secure: | Multi-level security system  
| Securexam® Browser  
| Securexam® Remote Proctor  
| Securexam® Student  
| | - Locks down the test takers computer OS.  
| | - Provides access to the test while preventing access to everything else.  
| | - Remote control of computer settings.  
| | - Authenticates identity  
| | - Monitors the assessment scene via audio and video.  
| | - Works with Learning Management System such as Blackboard, Angel, Moodle, WebCT.  
| | - Can lock down Word Processor and Spreadsheet test engine  
| | | Provides solutions for delivering exam security and secure, remote assessment. Cost effective; easy to employ for faculty and students; tech-support for students; customer support for faculty; convenient; authenticates student identity; monitors student activity 360 view, secures computer access; compact, portable; LMS compatible  
| | | APMG; Univ. of West Alabama; Michigan State University; Drexel College School of Nursing.  
| ProctorU - | Live online proctoring service for students taking exams online.  
| | | Proctor database.  
| | | Exams can be completed at student’s home location.  
| | | Provides live proctors to help students through the exam process.  
| Turnitin: | Ensures original work by checking submitted papers against 20+ billion web pages  
| | | 220+ million student papers and leading library databases and publications.  
| | | Improves feedback through online grading where feedback appears directly on the student’s paper.  
| | | - Research  
| | | - Whitepapers: Preparing Students for Success  
| | | - Funding Resources  
| | | - Webcasts  
| OriginalityCheck  
| Grademark  
| | | | | | |