



Academic Integrity

Strategies to Promote Academic Integrity for Online Examinations

Include an Honor Statement Question

Require students to agree to an honor statement and make them aware of the institution's academic integrity policy.

Example: "I guarantee this is my independent work. I agree not to show the exam questions or answer choices to anyone, including other students. To do otherwise would constitute academic dishonesty."

Time the Exam

Exams given online should always be timed. The time limit should reflect the expected difficulty of the exam. When you limit the duration of a quiz, it diminishes the time that a student can spend looking up answers.

Limit the Availability of an Exam

If an exam has a long availability period, it is possible for a few students to take the test early and share the questions and answers with other students who have not yet taken the exam.

Shuffle Questions and Answers

Setting as many options to shuffle as possible will help prevent students from getting the "same" exam. While students may receive the same questions, the questions (and their answers) will appear in a random order, making it difficult to cheat.

Use Question Banks to Randomly Generate Exams

A randomized question bank allows the instructor to add as many questions as desired within a specific quiz bank. Based on the number of questions selected to appear when a student takes the quiz, the system will randomly generate a quiz for each student. Each student is presented with a unique test which makes it very difficult to collaborate with other students during the exam. It also deters students from copying their question sets and passing it along to their peers who may not have started the exam yet.

Include Essay and Short-Answer Question Types

Consider questions that offer longer-form responses, such as short-answer or essay questions. These questions typically require higher-order thinking skills, which showcase a greater depth of knowledge.

Allow Only One Question at a Time

Allowing only one question to be viewed at a time prevents students from comparing exams completely side-by-side. With online tests, choosing the option “display test all at once” gives the students opportunity to take screen shots of large amounts of material. Having the questions display one at a time is one way to deter this behavior.

Limit Student Access to Correct Answers

During the examination limiting students from returning to an already answered question can prevent them from comparing exams side-by-side. After the examination, prevent students from seeing which questions they missed until all students have taken and submitted the exam.

Further Considerations

- Create new exam questions and build a large question bank.
- Do not use the same test across semesters. Doing so could result in higher levels of academic dishonesty.
- Search online for the answer to a question drafted. If the question is written in such a way that it can easily be found by typing the question into a search engine, consider revising it.
- Consider asking a question that can easily be verified and which the student knows the answer. Asking students for their student ID number is one possibility.

References

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