

# BEST PRACTICES FOR TESTING IN ONLINE AND HYBRID COURSES

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# Concerns with Online Testing

- ❑ Students can encounter technical glitches, which can lock them out of tests and cause their answers to be lost
- ❑ Students can use notes, books, web sites, etc. or get assistance from others
- ❑ Students can print/copy/capture the test and share it with others
- ❑ Students can have others take tests for them

# Technical Tips

- Select test options wisely
  - ▣ #1 Tip: Display questions “one at a time”
- Use randomization options in Blackboard
  - ▣ Randomize questions
  - ▣ Randomize answers
  - ▣ Select random blocks of questions from test pools
- Direct students to tips for avoiding problems
- Limit the ability to print/copy tests



For detailed instructions, see the Technical Tips handout.

# Other (non-technical) suggestions

- Treat all tests as open book
- Use a variety of assignments (discussion boards, group projects, etc) that require application of concepts
- Adjust course grading policies to emphasize assessments that are less susceptible to cheating
- Educate students about academic honesty policies and post frequent reminders
- Consider in-person, proctored final exams

# Federal law and SACCS requirements

The 2008 Higher Education Opportunity Act directs accrediting agencies to require institutions to...

*“have processes through which the institution establishes that the student who registers in a distance education course or program is the same students who participates in and completes the program and receives the academic credit”*

Clarifying language has been attached to the legislation that says providing each student with a secure login and passcode meets the requirement (until more sophisticated technological solutions become available and feasible).

# For more info

Online Testing: Best Practices from the Field (NC Conference of English Instructors)

<http://www.ncei.org/blackboard/testingadvice.html>

Ways to Prevent Cheating on Online Exams (eCollege/Pearson)

<http://www.ecollege.com/Newsletter/EducatorsVoice/EducatorsVoice-Vol8Iss6.learn>

Best Practices for Quizzes and Tests (Cape Fear CC)

<http://cfcc.edu/blogs/DL/2010/01/25/best-practices-for-quizzes-and-tests/>

Guidelines to Promote Academic Integrity in Online Classes (Broward College)

<http://www.broward.edu/elearning/eLearning/faculty/eResources/AcademicIntegrity.pdf>

Online Educators Won't Have to Spy on Students, New Rules Say (Chronicle of Higher Ed)

<http://chronicle.com/article/Online-Educators-Wont-Have/47291/>