

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/>