UNT Dallas
Distance Learning and Instructional Technologies
Blackboard Support

DISTANCE LEARNING
& INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGIES
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Online Exams
Strategies to Minimize Cheating

BEST PRACTICES

There is no foolproof way to completely prevent cheating either in a traditional classroom or in an online course. However, online assessment tools provide more ways to add security and reduce the likelihood of cheating.

The following list provides a variety of ways to make your exams and quizzes more secure. The more items you choose from the list, the more secure your tests become!

1. Randomize the answer choices for each question.
2. Randomize the questions on the test. Use question sets to randomly choose which questions from the set are displayed to each student, with a possibility of a different set of similar questions for each student.
3. Create a large bank of questions (pool) from which to select questions for each test.
4. Display one question at a time.
5. Set a time limit for the test to not allow extra time per question.
6. Turn on the Auto-Submit option to automatically submit a test when the time limit is reached.
7. Do not release the student's test score until the availability time has ended.
8. Do not release results (feedback) to the students or at least not the answers.
9. 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.
10. Calculated questions - 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.
11. Code of Conduct - Have students sign an honesty statement that summarizes the expectations and requirements for academic honesty.
12. Other methods of assessment - 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).