Academic Integrity

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Before deciding to use Respondus, take into consideration the following concerns with using online proctoring solutions, such as Respondus:

They may not meet all accessibility needs.

Students have privacy concerns over the information collected.

Students will experience higher anxiety and stress which will impact their success on the assessment/exam.

Equitable practices are not possible (for example, not all students have a webcam, stable internet connection, a private room where they will not be interrupted, etc.).

Lack of technology assistance for students during the assessment/exam.

To address these concerns, Seneca recommends that instructors explore other assessment alternatives to online proctored exams.

Respondus and Academic Integrity

The use of online proctoring tools like Respondus is not aligned with Seneca's current educational focus, as noted in the Academic Integrity Policy. However, if it is necessary to use Respondus, please carefully consider how and when you are using this tool. Check out our Best Practices checklist for more tips.

To protect students from committing academic integrity violations when taking online exams, Respondus Monitor and LockDown Browser can provide safeguards when students are not in a proctored environment.

- If students are completing assessments outside of a proctored environment, instructors can view thumbnails of the Respondus Monitor video footage, to make sure that there is no interference during the assessment time.

- LockDown Browser can block students from opening unauthorized applications and websites.

- Lockdown Browser prevents students from copying, pasting and printing exam

questions for later use.

- Approved Cueing Sheet with Memory Aid in brackets and scrap paper for working out answers can be shown to the camera (back and front) for use during assessment.

However, there are limitations to these safeguards.

- Students who have access to more than one device could use another device to search for answers and/or take pictures of the assessment for later use.
- If only using LockDown Browser, students are not required to turn on their device's camera, which could enable them to use other tools to access information during the exam.
- In a virtual proctoring environment, it is difficult to monitor students if they need to take a break or have an urgent need for a washroom.
- LockDown Browser does not allow students to email their instructor to clarify questions.
- Respondus Monitor will not flag all suspect behaviour; instructors will need to watch student videos in their entirety to have a complete picture of student behaviour during the assessment.

Please reach out to Teaching & Learning for more information on Respondus LockDown Browser + Monitor.

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