The Challenges of Online Testing

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Overview

Evaluating students in distance education courses can be difficult, especially when administering exams to large "hard science" classes, such as pathophysiology and pharmacology. Instead of giving locally proctored exams, the School of Nursing now uses Blackboard for testing, along with the school's custom online testing tool.

Outcomes

Determined best practices for online tests; restrict time allowed, password protect, prevent copying and printing, require students to sign honor code, limit to one-time access, use mastery question types.

Sponsors

- OIT Help Desk
- School of Nursing Center for Instructional Technology & Distance Learning (CITDL)

Technologies Used

- Blackboard
- School of Nursing custom testing tool

"I prefer to evaluate learning by allowing students to discuss clinical scenarios that actively require the use of critical thinking skills. However, some courses require basic knowledge testing. In these cases we've found online testing to be an acceptable option."