

Maintain Academic Integrity

Plagiarism Prevention

SafeAssign is a plagiarism-detection tool available in Blackboard course assignments that highlight any and all aspects of student submissions that are also found in the submissions of other students or from online references. SafeAssign uses text-matching algorithms to compare student papers to online databases and other student work, producing an originality report for the instructor to review for plagiarism and for showing students how to properly cite sources of information. Add SafeAssign to all your assignments.

Effective Practice: Learners should be informed about how and when SafeAssign will be used.

- Make sure students are able to see the citation report from a draft paper assignment in order to correct citations before submitting a final paper assignment. Check "Allow students to view SafeAssign originality report for their attempts" in the assignment settings.
- In addition, even though it is not according to APA or MLA, make sure students remove their name from the title page of the final paper assignment before submission. SafeAssign is a third-party product, make sure to protect the student's identity by removing their names off of the title page. You will know who's paper it is because Blackboard automatically tracks all submitted work.
- Use SafeAssign with a draft assignment with "Exclude submissions from the Institutional and Global References Databases" checked in the assignment settings to give students a chance to understand where they made a mistake in citing works. Only submit their final paper to the national SafeAssign repository.

Testing

[Respondus LockDown Browser™](#) is a custom browser used to remotely proctor online exams. The tool provides students access to the Internet, similar to Chrome or Safari, but it only opens up to Blackboard. The LockDown Browser prevents students from printing or accessing other web sites and applications while taking a test.

Respondus Monitor™ is a companion product for LockDown Browser that enables institutions to protect the integrity of non-proctored, online exams. Students use their own computer and a web cam to record assessment sessions, all without leaving the institution's learning management system. For best practices, learners should be informed well in advance that the tool will be recording video and audio of the testing session.

Effective Practices: Set students up for success when using Respondus. Remember to scaffold the Respondus tool in the class. Provide a practice test for students to install and try out Respondus well before the test.

While Respondus will help deter cheating, there are additional ways to reduce cheating in a few simple best practices for you:

- Switch tests out regularly. By switching out your exams, a test from last semester will not be the one this semester.
- Build pools of test questions. Most textbooks come with a bank of test questions, sometimes hundreds of questions. Use the test banks where you can, it will cut down on the amount of time to build and switch questions.
- Use regular quizzing, instead of big exams. By testing often and purposefully, learners will prepare for those tests by looking at the materials instead of looking online. Test anxiety will decrease.
- Randomize questions and questions answers. Blackboard testing tool will automatically help you there.
- Use short answer and essay questions purposefully. Using all multiple choice is good for lower levels of understanding. Use complex scenarios to test for mastery of concepts and skills.
- Use open book tests. If you offer open book tests, the learners will probably open the book. It's another chance for students to encounter the content of the course.

Respondus is not available for Chromebooks or Android tablets. We also don't recommend that students use Respondus on their smartphones.