Creating An Environment Of Academic Integrity with Online Testing of Nurse Practitioner Students

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Outcomes

- Identify strategies to promote academic integrity in a non-proctored testing environment
- Describe techniques used to enhance academic integrity in an online environment
- Discuss types of tests utilized for nurse practitioner students in an online course

Enrollment in online classes over 3 million & will continue to grow 10x more than on campus classes in next 10 years
Advantages
- convenience
- accessibility
- does not require physical presence

Disadvantage
- possibility of academic dishonesty
- 57% of students find it easy to cheat in online classes

Sixty-four percent of high school students had cheated in last year
- (Josephson Institute 2008 Survey on Ethics in American Youths)
- Ninety percent of these students perceive themselves as having high ethical standards
Integrity

- Being authentically ourself
- Being true to:
  - ourself
  - university
  - public

Academic Integrity

- “Academic integrity – commitment, even in the face of adversity to five fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility”
- Academic integrity – fundamental value of teaching, learning and scholarship
  
  Center for Academic Integrity (1999)

- Academic integrity component of professional socialization in nursing
McCabe (2004) examined academic integrity in nursing students; multicampus sample of 1,098 students enrolled in traditional BSN, RN-BSN, accelerated, and graduate programs.

Faculty Issues

Institute of Medicine (2000)- noted pervasiveness of errors & dire outcomes in terms of patient care
How faculty can contribute to academic integrity

Does curriculum lend itself to integrity
Are assignments clear or just busy work
Are due dates for major assignments spaced out or concentrated
How do faculty address integrity principles in clinical setting when student see practices that do not reflect integrity
Steps to Maximize Test Security

- Randomization of questions
- No printing of test
- Time limits

Academic Honor Code

- Honor codes create an atmosphere of academic integrity
  - students reluctant to cheat → culture of integrity

Types of Honor Codes

- Traditional honor codes
  - written pledge of academic honesty
  - structure for handling violations of academic integrity,
  - peer reporting of academic dishonest activities
  - unproctored exams
Types of Honor Codes

- Modified honor codes
  - Written pledge
  - Some form of judiciary structure
- McCabe (2002) less cheating in schools with traditional honor code

Honor Code Example

“I state that I have not shared, received, or requested any information regarding any questions, answers, content, or any material whatsoever related to this exam/assignment from any other person”

Expectations in Syllabus

- Identify class expectations
- State policy for breeches in academic integrity policy
- Define test expectations
- Define plagiarism
Testing Policy

- Students must agree to honor code before starting each test
- Tests to be taken closed book
- Tests to be taken in the allotted time frame
- No sharing, copying or photographing test questions

Strategies to Enhance Security

Browser Security
- Browser check
  - Browser requirement downloads (Java)
  - File readers (Adobe Acrobat)
  - Restricts unauthorized web browsing (Sentinel Secure)

Identification Authenticity
- Password Protected
- Digital picture of student (Webassessor)
- Fingerprinting (Remote Proctor)
- Testing centers
Strategies to Enhance Security

- Web Cam
  - 360 degree view camera
  - Microphone
  - Faculty review recorded test film

Strategies to Enhance Security

- Teleconferencing
  - online Oral Examinations
- Variety of products
  - Elluminate
  - Polycom PVX
  - VBrick

Browser security
- Browser checks
- Java
- Adobe Acrobat
- Secured Secure

Identification
- Password
- Digital picture of student
- Fingerprint

WebCam
- 360 degree camera
- Microphone
- Faculty review view

Teleconferencing
- PolyCam PVX
- VBrick
- Elluminate
Faculty Responsibility

- Test security responsibility of faculty
- Hold students accountable promotes & reinforces academic integrity
- Faculty members & students should develop academic integrity policies collaboratively
- Identify examples of cheating behaviors
- Faculty rely on variety of evaluation methods, i.e. discussions, quizzes, journal entries
- Faculty should promote opportunities for faculty/student interaction, chat rooms, discussion boards

Faculty Responsibility (cont.)

- Create evaluation methods that are open book which can include:
  - unfolding case studies
  - essays
  - essay questions based on discussions
  - student developed projects

Teaching Strategy Effectiveness

- Assessment of teaching strategies effectiveness is measured by certification exams
- Computer based testing compared to paper and pencil testing did not produce any detrimental effects on students grades or learning
Steps to Maximize Test Security

1. Proctor supervision
2. Honor code
3. Randomization of test questions
4. No printing of test
5. Time limit
6. Electronic devices

Testing in an Online Environment

- Formative evaluation
- Summative assessment
- Performance assessment

Testing in an Online Environment

- Performance assessment can include:
  - portfolios
  - performance tasks
  - writing
  - problem solving
  - oral presentations
  - constructed simulations
Testing in an Online environment

- Authentic assessment – subset of PA
  - cognitive complexity → demonstrates examinee's true ability
  - nurse-patient simulation

Formative
- Multiple choice
- Matching
- Short answer
- Drag and drop

Summative
- Performance assessments
- Portfolios
- Problem solving
- Oral presentations
- Constructed Simulations

Thank You for your Attention!
References


