Considerations for Online Course Testing and Remote Proctoring after the Pandemic

Brad Held – University of North Carolina
We ask you to join us in creating a culture that reflects…

Access and Inclusion

and

Civility and Respect

…this event and in all aspects of our organization.
Introduction

• 15 years in disability services
  • 10 years in higher ed, 5 years in K-12
• Certifications in Accessible Technology
• Director for Digital Accessibility at UNC-CH
• Documented Learning Disability
• Personally used Testing Accommodations
Overview

- Planning for a new normal
- Partnerships with faculty
- Student’s health remains a priority
- Common testing environment barriers
- Proctoring options
- Question and Answers
Planning the New Normal

• Few schools have the same plans due to different impacts of the pandemic, especially for instruction modes.
  • Face-to-Face (Mask-to-Mask), fewer than 50 seats
  • Hybrid, mostly online with some on campus meeting
  • HyFlex
  • Remote Only

• Team Approach: Leadership, Faculty, IT, Facilities, Students
Partnerships with Faculty

• Accommodated Testing should be viewed as a service to support faculty
• Challenges to recognize
  • Many faculty are not experts on disability, only experts of their course
  • Concerns about academic integrity
  • Accessing work remotely, outside their comfort zone
  • Juggling Work-life balance
Students Health is Paramount

• Factors involved with decisions makings
  • Compromised immune systems
  • Getting behind in credits
  • Availability of seating and course offered
• Non-Traditional Student
  • Childcare and school opening
  • Supporting at-risk family members
Testing Considerations

• High-stakes timed testing
  • Exams are not always a good measure of learning
• Concerns about academic integrity
• Accessible Technology
  • Is exam accessible
  • Conflicts with proctoring services
• Online and In-Person Proctoring
Common Environments for Testing: In-person Proctoring

- Physical distancing impacts testing space
  - Plastic Dividers at open desk
  - Directional Arrow for large spaces
- Check-in protocol (ID check)
- Sanitized testing space
  - Gloves, disinfectant spray, sanitization wipes
- Students bring own materials (pencils/papers, etc)
- Mask for students and mask for staff
Common Environments for Testing: Online Proctoring

• Allow for a Reduce Distraction environments
  • Earplugs or approved background music
  • Quite space away from family
• Bathroom breaks due to disability
• Pacing and fidget toys for anxiety
Proctoring Remotely

• Live proctoring through a video conference (Zoom)
  • Proctors can be Disability Support Staff, Grad Assistants, Teaching Assistants, or Student workers
  • Test accessible technology before exam session
  • Turn off Private Chat
  • Ensure multiple authentication options
    • Digitally with campus security protocols
    • Physically with State-issued ID
Proctoring Services and Tools

• If you don’t already have a platform, allow for procurement, implementation, training and a back-up plan
• Examity and ProctorU
  • Cost for students
• Lock Down Browser
  • Not Compatible with Read&Write,
  • Compatible with NVDA and ReadSpeak
• All proctoring services require strong bandwidth and speed
Student Independence

• Students need to be an activate participate during this time. Clarifying and explaining their needs are crucial.
• Encourage students to understand the institutional policies, especially the new related to the pandemic.
• Regularly check-in with students and share feedback with administration.
Question and Answers

Remember the AHEAD Coronavirus Resources
https://www.ahead.org/professional-resources/coronavirus-resources