Remote Examinations and Proctoring
Final Exams—what comes to mind when you hear that two-word phrase? For most of us, we have memories of packing into a classroom, library, lab, or in some cases, a gymnasium, to write our Final Exam, worth somewhere around half of our overall grade, amongst many other students all doing the same thing. While your head is down, and you’re scratching away at your exam papers, all you can hear is the occasional cough and the footsteps of people walking up and down the aisles who are simply there to proctor you.

For those unaware, a proctor is a supervisor or a person who monitors students during an examination. Usually the teacher themselves, or if they’re lucky, a graduate student will step in and take care of this activity during a Final Exam. But there are other testing environments when a proctor is utilized—placement tests, midterms, standardized tests, and other high-stake assessments. Overall, we can categorize them as proctored exams; an exam given while someone is watching you.

The proctor typically has two roles:

1. To authorize a student to take the proctored exam, asking students to prove they are who they say they are

2. Monitoring students during the actual test to ensure academic integrity (anti-cheating measure to be blunt)

Are there situations where proctors aren’t necessary? Of course! Some examples of these UN-proctored exams include take-home assignments, group work, research activities, or any other type of low-stakes assessment.

But as we continue to move our lives more and more online, how do we enable proctors to do their jobs when they aren’t even in the same location as a student? Is there even a way to do so? How do we ask students to prove who they say they are? How do we make sure they aren’t trying to cheat? How can we continue to maintain high standards of academic integrity in a fully online environment?

Fortunately, Möbius provides the opportunity to not only enable online proctoring of students but to also maintain the high quality of learning materials expected by your students across all disciplines. Möbius offers an assignment type called the **Proctored Exam** type. This particular assignment type is explicitly geared for test administrators who want to fully proctor their exams, from authorization to proctoring itself.

There are two options that aid in authorization, **Proctor Authorization to Start** and **Proctor Authorization to Grade**. These options simply require a proctor to authorize the student before they are allowed to start or submit the assignment for grading. The great part? You can authorize a student directly on their computer, for those on-campus proctored exams, or you can authorize them remotely, from a separate location, using Möbius Proctor Tools.
Möbius also provides a Proctored Browser full-screen mode that when enabled, blocks the student from accessing external websites or other programs on their computer while completing an online Proctored Exam. If a student exits this Proctored Browser full-screen mode, they will be locked out of their assignment until they receive authorization from a proctor (either at their computer directly or remotely using Proctor Tools).

To help focus students on the assessment itself and not browsing other resources for the answers, Möbius includes advanced algorithmic and randomizations tools such as algorithmic questions. For each student attempt within an assignment, you can include Question Groups, which tells Möbius to pull a subset of questions and randomize the order. Providing students with a variety of questions, has been standard in the platform for the last fifteen years and has been fine-tuned as an anti-cheating measure across the world.

Some schools also seek out companies that offer online webcam proctoring. No worries though, as using Möbius with a proctoring service is a straightforward process. Because Möbius is a web application you navigate to in your internet browser and not a piece of software you download, it is compatible with any webcam proctoring solution.

First, you need to provide the proctoring service with the details of the Möbius test or assessment—the URL they’ll access it from (or if connected through your LMS, the link they’ll click to access it and any specific details related to taking the test itself (time limit, start date or time, password for authorization, advanced policies, etc.). Once the student then meets with a proctor remotely of the webcam proctoring service, the student simply navigates to the Möbius test in their internet browser and begins the assessment. No API integration required—no technical link.

Remote examinations shouldn’t make you question your student’s academic integrity and Möbius doesn’t intend to do that. As a leader in online STEM education for courseware deployment and a proven track record for deploying high-quality online assessments, Möbius contains the capabilities to fully authorize and proctor your students—wherever they need to be at any time.
About DigitalEd

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