Online Assessment and Academic Integrity
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Key Takeaways

Assessments should align with stated course outcomes.

Ensuring exam integrity is difficult in online learning environments. Instructors do not control the physical space and cannot watch students to ensure against cheating. Proctoring software (Examity, ProctorU, etc.) can mitigate these issues to some degree.
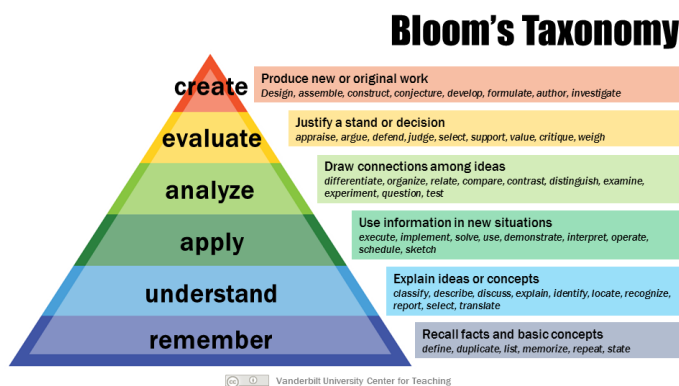
Students are more likely to violate academic integrity if they feel as though doing so is the only way to get ahead in a class. This issue is exacerbated when we use infrequent high-stakes tests and exams as the primary means of assessment.

Frequent low-stakes quizzes can be used in place of large-scale exams. Advantages of low-stakes quizzes include the following:

• Regular quizzes give students an opportunity to recall information shortly after it is learned
• Decreased time between learning and recall helps the information stick in long-term memory
• Low-stakes quizzes reduce the reliance on a large exam and lowers the stress level for students
• Lower stakes and reduced stress on regular quizzes leads to a lower incentive to cheat
• Weekly low-stakes quizzes are formative instead of summative. Instructors get a clear picture of how students are progressing while they are learning, and can make adjustments when needed

Alternative assessments that focus on higher levels of Bloom's Taxonomy can be used to assess student learning. Integrity violations are less common on these types of authentic assessments.

• Presentations via videoconference
• One-on-one interviews via videoconference
• Student-produced videos demonstrating mastery of course concepts
• Discussion board or realtime chat session
• Infographic, mind map, graphic organizer
• Screen-capture videos
• Group project with digital deliverables

Bloom's Taxonomy

create — Produce new or original work
Design, assemble, construct, conjecture, develop, formulate, author, investigate

evaluate — Justify a stand or decision
appraise, argue, defend, judge, select, support, value, critique, weigh

analyze — Draw connections among ideas
differentiate, organize, relate, compare, contrast, distinguish, examine, experiment, question, test

apply — Use information in new situations
execute, implement, solve, use, demonstrate, interpret, operate, schedule, sketch

understand — Explain ideas or concepts
classify, describe, discuss, explain, identify, locate, recognize, report, select, translate

remember — Recall facts and basic concepts
define, duplicate, list, memorize, repeat, state

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