Integrating remote proctoring in dental education: Problem, solution, and results

Author(s): Dragos, Yildiz, Dunn, Ramesh

Affiliation: Tufts University School of Dental Medicine, Boston, USA

Background
ExamSoft is the program TUSDM uses to create and deploy exams for predoctoral students. Examplify is the software, owned by the same company, that students use to download and take the exam. However, a physical proctoring presence was still always employed, monitoring and aiding students with minor logistical help.

What we tried
ExamID is an exam integrity tool added to an existing Examplify account that confirms students’ identities prior to allowing access to an assessment. ExamMonitor is the AI-driven remote proctoring solution that continuously records exam takers with video and audio monitoring throughout the entire exam. When the exam is completed, the videos are uploaded and reviewed for potential breaches of academic integrity.

How did we evaluate it?
Direct comparison of the psychometrics reports of previous years with in-person proctoring versus remote proctoring (same discipline)

What did we find?
The preliminary review of the student performances appears to be in alignment with those in previous years, based on the psychometrics reports for the same discipline. There is a general positive feedback from both students and faculty on the remote proctor experience.

Conclusion
While remote proctoring proved to be a timely solution, the emotional needs of students who may feel stress in using unfamiliar technologies for high stakes exams needs to be considered.

What are main lessons did we learn?
• Collaboration at the university level with the other schools using the same technology was key.
• Assessing collaboratively with all stakeholders after every iteration was critical.
• Some course directors initially preferred to either delay the time of examination and/or reduce the content tested, as they were not comfortable using this technology.