

## **Prevention of Digital Cheating with Respondus Monitor**

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**Problem:** The number of online applicants has increased greatly with an average of 20 students enrolled in the UAMS online MLS program. A challenge with distance education is finding testing sites in rural areas that do not charge for proctoring exams. A secondary issue with testing is prevention of digital cheating. How can instructors prove that students are not using outside resources while taking exams online? **Method:** The faculty initiated a pilot study using an online testing program called Respondus Monitor (RM) into the microbiology and immunohematology online courses. RM eliminates the need for test proctors and allows students to take exams at home while being recorded with a webcam. The RM software completes a series of checks prior and during the examination process to ensure testing security. This includes identification verification, environmental checks, and suspicious behavior flagging. **Results:** The faculty completed a data comparison for the two courses. Exam scores from students using RM were compared to students completing exams at proctored testing sites. After five lecture exams were completed, the average grade for the students taking exams at proctored testing sites was 75.17% for microbiology and 81.30% for immunohematology. The average grade for students taking exams using RM was 75.94% for microbiology and 81.77% for immunohematology. **Conclusion:** With less than 1% difference among average grades between the testing groups, this suggests that RM is successful in preventing digital cheating. Based on the data collected and the positive feedback from the RM Survey, the faculty will continue utilizing the exam software.