

Decision Considerations
Article 4

Row, Neil C., (2005), Cheating Online Student Assessment: Beyond Plagiarism,

The prevention of plagiarism has been the subject of much attention, but insufficient attention has been given to other problems of dishonesty in online assessment. We survey the types of problems that can occur and what can be done about them. We believe many educators are unaware of these problems, and most countermeasures proposed are insufficient. This article explores the sophistication of methods of cheating online: 1) getting answers in advance by talking with students who had completed the test or by logging on as the instructor (using specialized software) to obtain the answers; and 2) unauthorized help during the test. Recommendations for online assessment to deter cheating would include: human proctoring of online testing; draw questions randomly from a large pool of questions; compare student answers and when similarities beyond those due to chance are observed as students to take a different assessment covering the same material since it is hard to prove guilt; and finally when purchasing distance-learning management software, consideration should be made in the instance of cheating. In summary, online assessment raises serious security issues. Many methods of cheating are enabled and distributed as software packages. As online testing becomes more sophisticated, so will software to enter the system of assessment be made available.