

Examity

Online proctoring for your exams

Updated March 25, 2020

What is Examity?

- Examity is an online exam proctoring company.
- You can use Examity during spring quarter (including finals week).
- Examity is not perfect by any means.
- But Examity may be an option worth considering.

Why use Examity?

Benefits of using Examity:

- You can have exams proctored by live humans who watch each student throughout their exam.
 - (Tester-to-proctor ratio ≤ 3 .)
- You can watch videos of each student taking their test.
 - Proctors time-stamp all potential instances of academic dishonesty.

Why not use Examity?

Drawbacks of using Examity:

- Exams are usually NOT simultaneous.
 - You specify a window of 1-2 days during which the exam will take place.
 - Students sign up for appointment times during this window.
- Technology requirements.
 - Students must have a desktop or laptop computer with webcam, speaker, and microphone, and a fast, reliable internet connection.
 - Tablets, chromebooks, and smartphones do NOT suffice.
- Unclear whether Examity can meet our demand.
 - Many (all?) of their proctors are in India, which currently has its own Covid-19 crisis.
 - Therefore, Examity has announced they cannot do live proctoring until at least April 1.
 - Demand for Examity's service has also suddenly increased.

Additional details

- Examity costs money, but the Provost will cover the cost for spring quarter.
- When scheduling an exam, you can add any kind of specific instruction. E.g.,
 - Student X gets 50% extra time.
 - Students must destroy all scratch paper after exam.
 - Students may not use bathroom during exam.
- Exams within Canvas can be handled very easily (see next page).
- Exams outside Canvas (e.g., on paper) are possible, but should be handled on a case-by-case basis. Contact Examity well ahead of time to make arrangements.

Examity for Canvas quizzes

Setting up Canvas quizzes in Examity is straightforward:

- Create a “module” in your Canvas course linking to Examity.
- You and your students click on this link.
- Course roster is automatically exported to Examity in a couple of days.
- You schedule exams in Examity well ahead of time, linking each one to a Canvas quiz.
- You manually add SDC accommodations for students.
- You can lock Canvas quizzes with a password, which the proctor will type in for each student.

However, Canvas’s quiz functionality is rather limited.

Multiple-choice questions are fine, as are free-response questions with simple answers.

Proctoring details

Four levels of proctoring are available.

- The lowest two levels do not involve human proctors.
 - Software verifies the student's identity.
 - Software monitors, e.g., student eye movements during exam.
- Level three is “Record and Review” (human proctor).
 - Proctor confirms student identity and goes over instructor-specified rules.
 - Proctor looks at student's environment through webcam.
 - Proctor has student pan webcam around, then leaves.
 - Rest of exam is recorded for proctors (and instructor) to view.
 - Proctor reviews recording, noting any suspicious behavior.
 - Examity auditors take an extra look at any suspicious behavior.
 - Instructor is given a report of everything observed during exam.
- Level four is “Live Proctoring”.
 - Similar to “Record and Review”, except:
 - Student is watched by proctor throughout exam.
 - If proctor notices suspicious behavior, proctor can ask student about it immediately.

Notes from ATS

- ATS is “encouraging instructors to consider this quizzing option only when it is important to conduct high-stakes testing, to be judicious with the use of Examity, and to use the lower tiers of proctoring if possible (more on that after next week - stay tuned to keepteaching.ucdavis.edu).”
- I asked whether exam periods of just one day might be possible. ATS said in response, “The one message that Examity has given us and instructors over and over, is to contact them first about when the test will be, how long it will be, what is the exam window, and how many students will be tested. Given that, they can give you an idea of what is possible.”

Contacting Examity

- DO contact Examity if:
 - you want Examity to proctor an exam that's not in Canvas,
 - you want to know how short the exam window can be, or
 - you have any other questions.
- Our account manager is Jayme Silverman,
jsilverman@examity.com, 617-712-4136.
- ATS and Examity encourage individual instructors to contact Jayme with questions.

Additional resources

Eximity has created the following:

- Brief introductory video
- Instructions for instructors
- Instructions for students
- Language for telling students about Eximity

Notes from personal experience: exam setup

- I used Examity to give my final exam for MAT 16B in Winter 2020. The process was relatively painless, and I'm considering using it again in Spring. But I also like Fu's method, and may use that instead (or as well).
- During finals week, campus urged us to consider the "Record and Review" level of proctoring, as time was limited. We were also encouraged to give students at least a 36-hour window in which to take exams. I did both of these things.
- My final exam was a Canvas quiz, about 2/3 multiple-choice and 1/3 free-response.
- Writing a multiple-choice exam was difficult.
- Creating the exam in Canvas was pretty easy.
- Setting up the exam in Examity was very easy.

Notes from personal experience: student experiences

- I let students opt out of taking the final exam, so as to reduce the number of students who'd need to be accommodated. Out of 200 students, 45 chose to take the final exam. Of these 45 students, 43 took the exam with Examity.
- One student scheduled a time in Examity, then had trouble logging in later to take the exam. They asked me in a panic if they could take the exam outside Examity instead. So I proctored them myself via Zoom.
- One student had a broken laptop and wasn't able to get to a computer lab in time. So I proctored them myself via Zoom.
- A few students had trouble scheduling the exam in the first place. One of these called Examity technical support who solved the problem for them. The others were able to schedule their exams once they finished "creating their Examity profile".

Notes from personal experience: before the exam

- I could see a live-updated list of which students had signed up, when they had signed up, and what time they had signed up for.
- I could see a live-updated list of which exams were in progress, which exams were finished and awaiting review, and which exams were finished and reviewed.
- I set the exam window to end at 8 PM; even though the exam lasted two hours, students were able to sign up to begin their exam as late as 7:30 PM.

Notes from personal experience: after the exam

- Many students were flagged on initial review; auditors reviewed these incidents and deemed most of them innocuous (e.g., one student talked during their exam, but only to respond to their parent that, yes, they were still taking their final exam). I was able to view reports from the proctor and the auditor, and then watch the video of each incident myself.
- An auditor flagged one incident as a "violation". The system then emailed me to alert me of this, and our account manager Jayme sent me a separate email. The student in question had been looking to one side a lot and also talking to someone else in the room. I read reports of this incident, then watched the video myself.

Find these slides at www.math.ucdavis.edu/~rthomas.
Feel free to email me for more details or if questions come up.