



Testing Center Conversation

Division of Information Technology

Overview

- [Testing Center Background - Original Agenda](#)
- [The Case for a UMBC Testing Center - Update](#)
- Q&A

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Background: What is a Testing Center?
 - a. Context
 - b. Testing Centers in Action
 - c. What is the faculty and student process for a Testing Center?
 - d. What's going on around the System and the State?
 - e. What's happening at Peer Institutions?
 - f. Standards and Best Practices
3. Roundtable Discussion

What is a Testing Center?

- Provides a secure, accessible, and credible environment for all students to flexibly schedule when to take their course assessments offered at the institution
- Originally designed for online and hybrid courses to ensure academic integrity
- Institutions across the country incorporate disability services and other make-up assessments at testing centers



PennState Testing Center

Testing Centers In Action (click on logo)



PennState



UNIVERSITY *of* NEBRASKA-LINCOLN



Information Technology Services

DIGITAL LEARNING CENTER

What is the Faculty process for a Testing Center?

- Faculty create an assessment, whether it is administered online or is paper-based
 - *Usually online or is completed through a computer*
- Alert the Testing Center about:
 - The timeframe the assessment is available
 - Number of students
 - Duration of the exam
 - Accommodations*
 - Allowed materials (calculators, rulers, etc.)
- Provide the assessment
- Pick-up completed assessment (if paper-based)

What is the Student process for a Testing Center?

- Schedule when to complete the exam in the allotted time frame*
- Take the exam at the Testing Center:
 - Arrive to testing appointment 10 minutes early
 - Sign-in and bring Campus ID
 - Store items in a locker
 - Begin assessment
- Return completed assessment to proctor



PennState Testing Center

USM Institutions

INSTITUTION	TESTING CENTER?	NOTES
Bowie	Yes - Online courses only	Requested by faculty; student appointments
Coppin	No	
Frostburg	No	
Salisbury	No	
Towson	Yes - Disabilities only	Request from faculty; student appointments
University of Baltimore	Yes - Disabilities only	Request from faculty; student appointments
University of Maryland Baltimore	Yes - Disabilities only	Request from faculty; student appointments
University of Maryland College Park	No ¹	"Testing Center" on campus is primarily used for standardized exams by ETS, ParaPro, Miller Analogies Test (MAT), and CLEP
University of Maryland Eastern Shore	No	
University of Maryland Global Campus	No ²	Began moving away from proctored exams in 2013/2014 to meet the needs of their students

Peer Institutions

INSTITUTION	TESTING CENTER?	NOTES
University of California – Riverside	No	
University of California – Santa Cruz	Yes - Disabilities only	Request from faculty; student appointments
University of Massachusetts- Lowell	Yes - Disabilities and make-up exams	Requested by the student, approved by faculty
University of Massachusetts- Amherst	Yes - Disabilities only	Request from faculty; student appointments
North Carolina State University at Raleigh	Yes	Primarily for online, no apparent restrictions
New Jersey Institute of Technology	No	
University at Albany, SUNY	No	
Binghamton University, SUNY	Yes	Primarily for online, no apparent restrictions
Miami University – Oxford	Yes - Disabilities only	Request from faculty; student appointments
George Mason University	Yes - Disabilities only	Request from faculty; student appointments

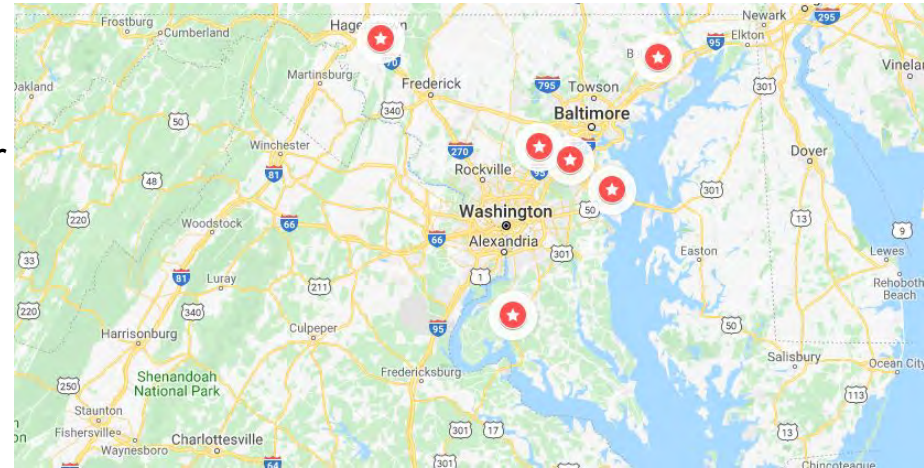
National College Testing Association

- Largest organization working in higher-ed that promotes quality test administration
- Provides an application for certification to testing centers that meet NCTA standards
- After NCTA certification, the institution joins the Consortium of College Testing Centers which provides students across the country to take assessment at another member institution's testing center



NCTA Certified Test Centers in Maryland

- Anne Arundel Community College
- Anne Arundel Community College
Arundel Mills
- Anne Arundel Community College-Center
for Cyber and Professional Training
- College of Southern Maryland
- Hagerstown Community College
- Harford Community College
- Howard Community College



Classrooms as Ad Hoc Testing Centers?

"After this experience I say we SO need a testing center," says Eisenmann, a sentiment echoed by others on the department's faculty email group after he and others shared their results. **"This is the first time I have ever given an exam to 200+ people in 20+ years, online or in-person, and not really worried about cheating. And so much more pleasant for them and us than stadium seating."**

~ David Eisenmann, Biology

Division of Information Technology

[Home](#) [About](#) [Analytics](#) [Business](#) [Infrastructure](#) [Instruction](#) [Security](#) [Support](#) [System Status](#)

Contact

Phone: [410.455.3838](tel:410.455.3838)

[Contact Us](#)

[myUMBC](#)

[← Back to News List](#)

Four Biology Faculty Give 1st Exam In-class AND Online

WiFi & student laptops turn UC into a "testing center"



Eisenmann



Lu



Leips



Omland

Events

What's New in Ultra Assessments & Grading

Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at 12:00 PM

Nudging Students to Success

Friday, April 22, 2022 at 12:00 PM

Free Webinar: Publish OER for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Wednesday, April 27, 2022 at 2:00 PM

Global Accessibility Awareness Day: Fix Your Digital Content

Thursday, May 19, 2022 at 10:00 AM

Before the Spring 22 semester started, four [Biological Sciences](#) professors -- [David Eisenmann](#), [Hua Lu](#), [Jeffrey Leips](#), and [Kevin Omland](#) -- reached out to DoIT to see if they could (and should) try an experiment: proctor their first semester exam in the University Center (UC) Ballroom and online (via Blackboard).

All four have been teaching in the UC as part of the pandemic-driven [retrofits](#) for teaching designed by DoIT and managed by [Events & Conference Services](#) (ECS). Also, after teaching remotely for nearly two years, they'd come to like the benefits of online exams other faculty have discovered with Blackboard [exam question pools](#), including randomization, item analysis and quicker student feedback. So, as more classes were offered on campus, the faculty wondered if they could leverage student laptops and mobile devices that made UMBC's pandemic pivot to online learning possible.

<https://doit.umbc.edu/post/117418>

Using UC AND Online Exams

- BIOL 302 & 142 Main Concerns: power for student laptops, WiFi.
- Similarities:
 - 200+ students in each course
 - Both used [Bb exam question banks](#) for multiple iterations of the test AND paper copy back ups
 - Used UC 312 for extra power outlets
- Differences:
 - BIOL 302: required [Respondus LDB](#) (uses Bb Original)
 - BIOL 142: “open note” & “open web” but not “open neighbor”(uses Bb Ultra)



First BIOL 302 exam, 2/24/22, UC Ballroom

Contact

Phone: [410.455.3838](tel:410.455.3838)

[Contact Us](#)

[myUMBC](#)

[← Back to News List](#)

SP22 Survey Shines Light on Faculty Testing

Key themes: academic integrity, accommodations, testing ctr.



In an effort to gather information on how faculty design and administer tests, DoIT collaborated with the Faculty Development Center (FDC) and Student Disability Services (SDS) to create and distribute a short survey to all 941 instructional faculty teaching in Spring 22. There were 157 complete submissions, representing a 17% response rate. Of these survey participants, 78% were full-time faculty, and about half (54%) were Associate, Assistant, or Full Professor. Almost all were from CAHSS (48%), CNMS (24%), or COEIT (22%), and 86% primarily teach undergraduate students.

Events

Ultra Design Clinic

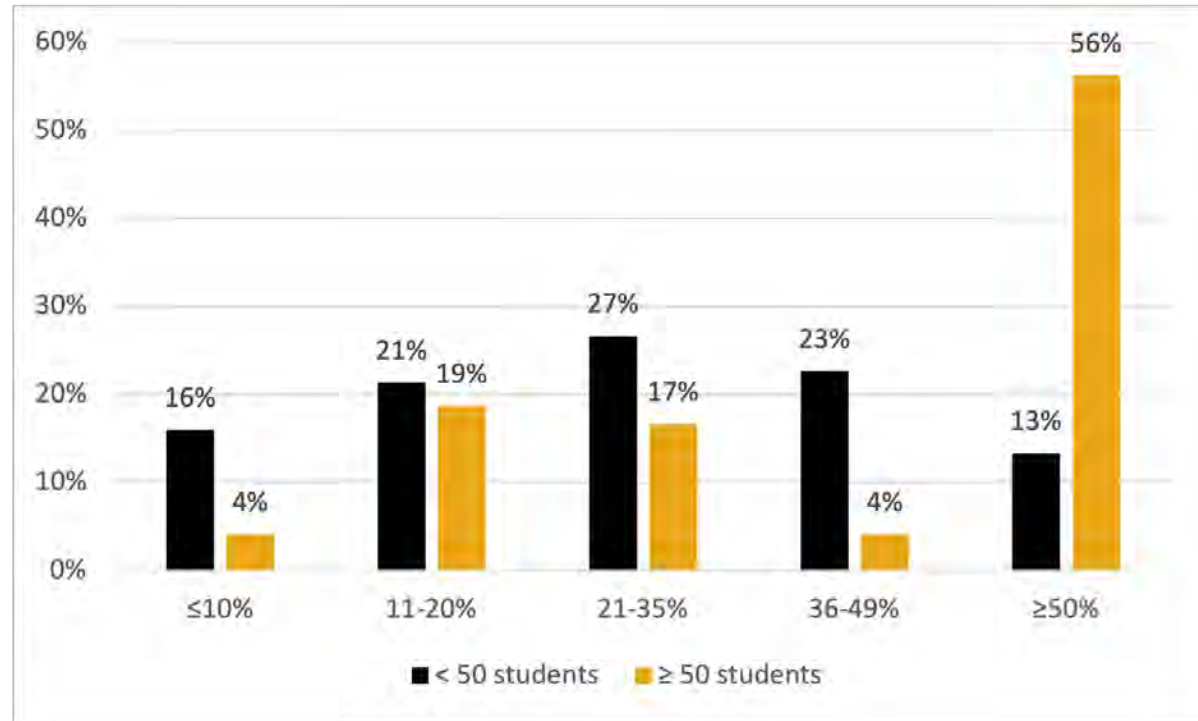
Wednesday, March 29, 2023
at 12:00 PM

Candid Conversations:
Teaching with Poll
Everywhere

<https://doit.umbc.edu/post/119088>

Percent of Final Grade from High-stakes Testing, by Course Enrollment

*Interestingly, when asked about the possibility of a dedicated UMBC testing center, only 14% of respondents teaching 50 or more students don't believe a testing center would help them; none of the respondents teaching more than 100 students are of that opinion. In fact, several respondents voiced support for this kind of facility, with one saying "I would be **THRILLED** for a testing center at UMBC!"*



Next Steps?

- Identify & consult campus stakeholders, shared governance.
- Key Question
 - Given likely space limitations, are faculty comfortable giving exams *over time* in a proctored TC vs. at the *same time* in a classroom or remotely online?
- One page ["Case for a UMBC Testing Center"](#) (Draft)
 - Three possible phases of implementation for a Testing Center @ UMBC
 - i. Expanded student disability accommodations & make up testing (20 seats)
 - ii. Reduced or eliminated "in-class" testing for courses up to 100 students (50 seats)
 - iii. High enrollment courses & professional or licensure exams (100 seats)





Dr. Tara Carpenter

How a UMBC TC *Might* Work?

CHEM 102 “Principles of Chemistry II” (600+ every spring)

1. TC exams use large “banks” of variablized Q&As, randomized by groups/students.
 - a. Result: Students get similar *rigor*, but no two students get same exam Q&As ([more info](#)).
 - b. Benefit: Same bank/pool approach can be leveraged for student practice ([more info](#)).

2. Exam opens Monday at 8 a.m., closes at 5 p.m. Friday. (120 exams/day | 15/90 mins)
 - a. 1/3rd of class assigned to start, middle, and end of the week (rotate across remaining exams).
 - b. Students make appointment to take exam at TC during hours of operation on assigned day.
 - c. “Starting” students might share exam *concepts* with “ending” students, not verbatim Q&As.
 - d. Assuming a 100-seat TC, CHEM 102 takes up 20% of TC’s capacity any hour
 - i. UNL has a [174-seat TC](#) for a campus enrollment of 25,390 (20,478 undergrad), no one course may occupy more than 50% of the TC’s capacity at any given time.
 - e. More students can take more exams per day/hour depending on TC availability, capacity, etc.

Resources

- Inside Higher Ed: [Exam Proctoring for Online Students Hasn't Yet Transformed](#)
 - Online proctoring nor testing centers are perfect
- Inside Higher Ed: [Online Exam Proctoring Catches Cheaters, Raises Concerns](#)
- US News: [Professors Use Technology to Fight Student Cheating](#)
- [CCTC List of Testing Centers by State](#)

Discussion?