

Academic Integrity

Mitigating Coordinated Cheating in Exams

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Academic Integrity

Office of the Vice-Principal Academic & Dean

Office of the Registrar



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO
SCARBOROUGH



DEFY
GRAVITY

Context

A third-party service is promoting a sophisticated cheating system to U of T students for in-person exams. A number of devices are involved including a micro camera that may be attached to students' clothing (this takes pictures of the exam and sends to the third-party), a tiny earpiece (so small that it requires a magnet to remove from the ear and is used to relay the answers back to the student) and a cell phone. For coordinated cheating to take place within a course, it only requires one person to take pictures of the exam and the answer can be relayed via the tiny earpiece to all those involved.

General Principles to Remember

- The vast majority of students do not intend to cheat.
- Tests and exams are stressful for all students and enhanced protocols can add to stress.
- Consistency in protocols can alleviate stress and reduce opportunities for cheating.
- Invigilation should not be policing.
- Support resources available before and during the test and exam period can reduce stress and reduce pressure to cheat.
- Students who cheat are feeling desperate. The emotions they are feeling blur their ability to recognize the consequences of their actions.



Unauthorized Aids:



Smart Watch



Cell Phone



Air Pods

Additional Unauthorized Aids:

These devices/gadgets enable cheating or coordinated cheating and can be concealed in a sophisticated manner



Camera



Tiny Earpiece



Inductor Necklace

Examples of unauthorized aids confiscated during an exam at U of T:



Camera

Earpiece Magnet to take the ear piece out



Earpiece

Camera

RECOMMENDATIONS: LEADING UP TO THE TEST DAY

In Quercus and during class meets leading up to the test, remind students that:

- Electronics need to be off and away in belongings. Possession of an unauthorized electronic device is an academic offence. Remind what is allowed and not allowed during the test.
- They should use washroom and fill water before they enter the room.
- TCard is required to write the test. Students without acceptable identification might not be allowed to write the test (instructor discretion).
- Academic integrity is an important value of our campus community. Students who cheat will be subject to failure, suspension or expulsion from the University.
- Additional invigilators if possible.

**Ensure electronics are
turned off**

**Bring your T-Card for
identification**



RECOMMENDATIONS: BEFORE THE TEST

WHILE STUDENTS ARE BEING SEATED

- Require students to show their **TCard** to write their test.
- All students to place bags away with their **electronics turned off** before finding a seat.
- Distribute test papers once all students are seated. Document any student that leaves the room once the test has been distributed.

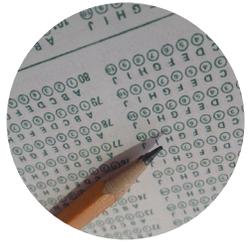


RECOMMENDATIONS: BEFORE THE TEST ANNOUNCEMENT SCRIPT

ONCE STUDENTS ARE SEATED AND BEFORE DISTRIBUTION OF THE TEST (ANNOUNCEMENT MADE BY INSTRUCTOR):

Before we start the test today, I want to remind everyone that Academic Integrity is an important pillar of our community and we take academic offences very seriously. The use of any unauthorized aid, electronic or otherwise is strictly prohibited during this test. We are trained to notice any abnormal activity and may ask you to provide information if we notice anything out of the normal. I would like to emphasize that the academic penalty for any activity that violates the *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* can have serious consequences including failure of a course, suspension, or expulsion from the University. At this point, if you have forgotten to put away an electronic device please identify yourself and put it away now. Also, if anyone wants to leave the test room you are welcome to do so now and no questions will be asked of you and no one will stop you. You will not be allowed to exercise this option, once the test has been distributed. Good luck with the test – you’ve got this!

DURING THE TEST: Signs to watch for?



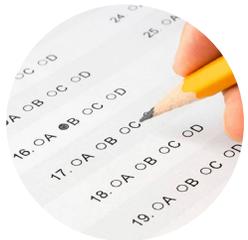
Holding Paper Upright, Upside down or Slanted

This may occur to take pictures of the questions.



Flipping through pages quickly

This may occur to take pictures of the questions at the beginning of the test.



Student sitting idle

Waiting for the answers to be relayed back. Likely to occur at the beginning of the test (i.e., first 30 minutes) and then quickly writing without pause.



Covering their ear with their hand or holding something in an awkward manner

Even though the earpieces are tiny and hard to see, students may still cover their ears or adjust it from time to time. They may have their hand at awkward places to take pictures of the questions if they are holding the camera or have it tucked under their sleeves.

RECOMMENDED ACTION IF CHEATING SUSPECTED

Approach: Investigate and then approach the student (if possible, have a conversation outside the test space to avoid disruption and have another person present with you as a witness).

Confiscate: confiscate the item(s) for the duration of the test and inform the student that they can collect them after the test. Take photos of the confiscated items with as much detail as possible.

Continue Test: student can continue to write their test.

Return Confiscated Items only after the student signs the unauthorized device form after the test is completed. Found online at <https://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/vpdean/process-facultystaff>

Follow Academic Integrity Process: <https://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/vpdean/process-facultystaff>



IMPORTANT: Please read before starting your test



Permitted

TCard
Pencils
Pens
Erasers
Pencil Sharpener
Unlabelled & Transparent
Water Bottle
Transparent Pencil Case



Authorized Aids

Instructor Permitted
Aids Only (i.e.,
Calculators
Books/Notes)
explicitly stated on
the front page of
your exam



Unauthorized Aids

Cell Phone*
Smart Watches*
Earphones of any kind*
Coffee Cup/Tumbler
Peaked Hat
Labelled Water Bottle
Opaque Pencil Case



Make sure these are **turned off before you enter the test/exam room. You can place them with your belongings in the room.*

Reminder:

Students who bring any unauthorized materials/aids into a test or exam room to assist, or obtain assistance from other students or sources are liable to penalties under the *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters*, including the **loss of academic credit for the course, suspension, or expulsion** from the University of Toronto.