Fall 2010 + Winter 2011 Online Final Exam Survey Results

Simulation & EdTech
Online Exams, December 2010

- Gene202: Human Genetics
- Surg203a: Human Anatomy
- Dbio201: Development and Disease Mech.
- Inde201: Practice of Medicine Y1
- Inde204: Practice of Medicine Y2
- PCAP: Primary Care Associates Program
Online Exams, March 2011

- Surg101: Human Anatomy (Undergraduate)
- Surg203b: Human Anatomy (MD)
- Nbio206: The Nervous System
- Inde202: Practice of Medicine Y1
- Inde205: Practice of Medicine Y2
- Imm205: Immunology in Health and Disease
LK120 and LK130 Prepped for Exams

LK120: 35 Computers

LK130: 65 Computers
Survey Results for Instructors
In terms of authoring the exam online, how would you rate the experience?

- Winter 2011
  - Very Easy: 20%
  - Very Difficult: 10%
  - Difficult: 30%
  - Neutral: 40%

- Fall 2010
  - Very Easy: 25%
  - Very Difficult: 5%
  - Difficult: 30%
  - Neutral: 40%
Overall, how would you rate the students' experience of the exam?

Fall 2010

Winter 2011
How would you rate the grading process for the online exam?

Fall 2010

Winter 2011
How useful were the results/statistics/analysis available to you from CourseWork by having your exam online?

![Bar charts comparing Fall 2010 and Winter 2011 data]

- **Fall 2010**
  - Item Analysis (beta) comparing high performers to low performers: Useful
  - Overall Statistics (mean, median, mode, etc): Useful
  - Statistics by Question (histogram by question): Neutral

- **Winter 2011**
  - Item Analysis (beta) comparing high performers to low performers: Neutral
  - Overall Statistics (mean, median, mode, etc): Useful
  - Statistics by Question (histogram by question): Neutral
How pleased are you with the support you received from Simulation EdTech for the exam?

Fall 2010

Winter 2011
How likely are you to do another online exam next year?

Fall 2010

Winter 2011
Comments from Instructors Fall 2010

went better for us this year, although we did have problems with the use of a different site that mucked things up... (as you know). I like the idea of the password protection - I'll use that again!

Wish that we could also export student performance by question, as opposed to by part (as in, how many students did the student receive by question)? Or maybe we can already do this, and I just don't know how.

The biggest hassle during grading was that Coursework was quite slow; so the process was made longer than it needed to be. Also, there seemed to be some difficulty when I tried to make an exam-wide modification after I had already manually changed a person's score -- not sure if this is a glitch or just a problem I was having. In general though, I found the online process to be great and a real asset when we were writing the exam and grading it. That being said, Brian and Jamie especially were immensely helpful in giving us feedback on our exam, taking a trial run of the exam, answering our many questions in the weeks leading up to it, setting up the computers, and troubleshooting for the students during the exam. Without their valuable service, then I don't think the process would have worked nearly as well. Thank you!

Some students requested Windows. We have not received any student feedback on the exam, or on the course, and that would be helpful prior to our completion of this survey. Due to tomorrow's deadline, I'm guessing at some of these responses.

Coursework needs to improve the matching questions - to provide use of different numbers of items in each list, and even items which are eventually unused.

Eliminate the problem where students are logged out without submitting the exam and have to log back in manually to complete the exam

As noted in the question above, several of our students complained that they are PC users, and felt frustrated by the Mac-only test environment we provided. While SET responded very quickly when I called the red phone about a tech issue one of our students encountered (strange saving issue), If we could perhaps have 1-2 support people from SET present or at least tasked to be readily available during our exam to answer students Mac-computer related questions, I think that would be very helpful.
Comments from Instructors Winter 2011

Not sure why but when students use MS Word on the Macs, some have saving issues - the program seems to "hang" indefinitely. Also, some students commented again as they did last quarter that they prefer PC's to Macs or were only familiar with PC's. While it was very helpful having someone from SET readily available to field questions, it would be very nice if we could offer students a choice of using a PC or Mac for taking their exams.

Remove the two known bugs - adding the incorrect answer to the question script in uploaded true/false questions - and - the ability for students to register an attempt by pressing the begin assignment button without entering the username or password. Add extended matching type, preferably by text upload.
Survey Results for Students
Overall, how would you rate your online exam-taking experience?

- **Fall 2010**
- **Winter 2011**
In respect to having the assignment online:

Fall 2010

Winter 2011
I really think we should make HHD exams administered on the computers as opposed to fill in scantron sheets.

Make sure to fix the various coursework glitches people have encountered, especially the multiple tabs open leading to site crashing bug.

There should be an option to use a PC for taking exams. I am unfamiliar with Macs and detest using them; having to take a final on one (and try to navigate the Mac version of Word) threw me off a bit.

Triple check to make sure that there are no connection issues. Have support staff available just in case they come up.

If it has to be done, at least the students should be familiar with the format before the day of the exam.

I liked taking exams on the computer for no other reason than training us for USMLE exams. I had to take the MCAT on the computer and I'm convinced that taking it on the computer, versus paper, negatively impacted my testing ability/score simply because I was not used to that form of testing (regardless of the fact that a lot of my prep was on the computer). I think constant practice with this form of testing will help tremendously for the board exams.

Thanks for killing less trees! Even if students don't appreciate your efforts, they are certainly for our benefit (tests are shifting on computers anyway, so why not do the same for our classes?). Some of my friends had issues with saving, however.. I didn't have any, but I think frequent saving should suffice for these issues.

Do paper exams for POM exams, they are not multiple choice exams and I feel more comfortable thinking while writing rather than typing.

Calculations and long answers are easier to do on paper. MCQs are easier online.

I am a pc user- using a macbook for the first time was confusing and difficult. I would like the option of using pc or mac.

The instructions given before the exam were a little convoluted.

Convince the professors that we should not access websites outside course works. The only exam that was a bit frustrating was genetics because you had to flip through different windows and the server for certain websites kept crashing. All the other exams were fine.
Comments from Students Winter 2011

Don't have one question per page and always allow the mark for review feature.

Have dedicated scrap paper for each exam (this was the case for some courses only).

The one major downside to taking exams online is the inability to cross off/eliminate MC answer choices to help narrow down your answer selection. I usually end up writing A,B,C,D,E on a piece of scratch paper and crossing off the letters as I eliminate incorrect answer choices.

I prefer online tests because they save paper. In terms of performance, I think they are mostly inferior to paper because of the inability to flip through questions fast.

It would be really great if [students] were not placed elbow-to-elbow in LKSC 130. This is the only room I took an exam in last week so perhaps spacing was better elsewhere, but I think spacing really needs to be a bit wider between test-taking stations. Especially now that the sound of the person next to you clicking on their keyboard has become an element of exam day.

Never put one question per page. It is annoyingly slow and obnoxious for checking answers.

Would be very helpful if we could be able to mark questions to return to later, regardless of if we marked an answer or not.

Do paper exams for POM exams, they are not multiple choice exams and I feel more comfortable thinking while writing rather than typing.

I would advise professors to take into account that more rooms will be needed when administering a test online to spread students out more.

Macs are inconvenient to use (especially for us who use PCs). I kept accidentally deleting things when I was trying to copy or paste.

Please have PCs available for people who don't use Macs! It puts the PC users at a disadvantage because it takes longer if you're not familiar with the controls.

When there's 100+ questions, it's really difficult to sit through and go through all the questions again as opposed to just having it all on one page and scrolling.