

Abstract

Adequate Testing and Evaluation of On-Line Learners

James R. Mallory

One logistical and pedagogical challenge with on-line or remote teaching is evaluating the learner's knowledge in a fair, secure and efficient manner. At NTID, we have been teaching Distance Learning courses to deaf and hearing students for the past six years and have implemented means for remotely evaluating students in C++ and Visual Basic computer programming classes. The three methods used were remote proctoring, on-line testing with multiple choice and fill in questions, and downloading and uploading answers using electronic conferencing software. When implementing a testing method, security, ease and timeliness for data collection, ease of use by the students, turn-around time, feedback to the students, flexibility of how the testing is done, and administration/implementation are but a few of the issues to consider. Each method has its strengths and weaknesses in these different areas. In this session we will present the findings of the three different testing methods as well as the advantages and disadvantages of each from an administrative, teacher and student perspective. This presentation will end with an interactive discussion with the audience regarding which testing systems are best for which content areas and learners.