

Academic Manager® System Security and Online Testing An Overview

At Exam Master we take exam security and academic integrity very seriously. Academic integrity is the foundation of a supportive learning environment and a credible educational process. Lack of academic integrity lowers scholastic quality, and defrauds those who will eventually depend on the knowledge and integrity of program graduates. Below is an overview as to how our security features work so that you can be better prepared.

Normal Testing security – Default for No-Pause Exams

Primary Function: System detects when user clicks off the exam page, or attempts to navigate away from exam page.

Summary: Our base security protocol offers a secure environment, provides users with a sense of not knowing what is being detected and not being detected, and provides security alerts to faculty. However, given the nature of trying to control web-browser environments, it is not fool proof.

What you need to know:

- Users can use “alt + tab” or the “window” key to navigate away from the first page but only if no action on the exam has taken place.
- Users can print screen to automatically go to a folder using Mac osX.
- Users can run screen capture software
- The system works with Internet Explorer or Firefox
- The system does not block other programs from gaining focus on screen (e.g. messaging clients)
- The system does not detect virtual environments (e.g. Parallels)
- The system does not detect hacked web browser

Exam Guardian®

Primary Function: Blocks normal keyboard functions, simulates a secure browser setting

Summary: Exam Guardian offers a high level of security by locking down a user’s keyboard controls. Normal typing is permitted.

- Exam Guardian cannot block “hot keys” found on special/gaming keyboards
- Exam Guardian requires Internet Explorer and Windows
- Exam Guardian may not block screen capture software
- Exam Guardian blocks other programs from gaining focus on screen
- Exam Guardian detects and rejects virtual environments
- Allows enforceable use for no-pause exams

See also <http://www.exammaster.com/academic-products/exam-guardian>

Special Features

Other security features/protocols are available to assist faculty. These include:

- Use of predetermined exam pass code to gain access to an exam.
- Deny reentry to a user who has left the exam without completing it.
- Faculty only questions not available to students. Exam Master maintains approximately 500 questions in a faculty only question bank. Students do not have access to this and cannot purchase these questions.
- User access can be restricted or denied as needed by administration
- System allows for specific question banks to be disabled as needed.

Steps faculty can take to secure their exam questions:

- Academic Manager enables faculty to modify Exam Master questions as needed. This lessens any concern that students may attempt to purchase independent (e.g. retail) access to Exam Master questions in order to “game” the exam.
- Faculty can add their own exam questions to Academic Manager. Students have no ability to access these questions unless assigned and delivered in an authorized exam.
- For high stakes exams, Exam Master strongly encourages proctoring, use of honesty pledges and notices, and all means available to maintain academic integrity.