Draft #4 - AMATYC statement on Proctored testing - ITL Committee

1. What is meant by proctored testing?

Proctored testing means that students are supervised by an approved proctor, provide verification of identity, and remain in continuous line of sight of the proctor while taking an exam. Frequently the proctor is a testing official at an accredited college or university. Electronic proctoring is an acceptable alternative to traditional proctoring. Electronic proctoring means that students are supervised by webcam in conjunction with other items such as a lockdown browser and the ability of the proctor to take over each student's computer.

2. Why require proctored testing?

 To ensure the integrity of grades assigned to students taking mathematics classes taught at a distance, all students should be required to take at least two exams in a proctored setting or complete other assessments such as a class project that demonstrates mastery of the course material and verifies student identity. Such controlled assessments give credibility to and respect for the grade students earn in their distance learning courses as well as to the distance learning program itself. Some institutions may not accept mathematics classes taught at a distance as transfer credit without documented proctored exams. It is a real warning when colleges stop accepting courses from other colleges without proctored tests. It is preferable that two-year colleges create the regulations for themselves.

3. What are some guidelines for setting up a secure proctored environment?

The institution should be required to have proctoring available for students at campus site(s). Students should be informed of proper procedure for arranging a proctoring situation that is approved by the instructor and the institution.

Students taking classes at a distance who are unable to come to campus sites for testing each have the responsibility to find an acceptable proctor and /or acceptable testing site, and cover any associated costs.

Proctor information must be communicated to faculty in an established time-frame for approval purposes.

The faculty member will convey testing information to the proctor, such as, what may and may not be used during the exam by the student, the exam password in the case of an online exam, and how to return the exam to the instructor.

4. What is the recommended number and weight of proctored tests?

It is recommended that when proctored tests are used as an assessment of student learning, proctored tests should be at least 50% of the course grade. It is also recommended that classes taught at a distance have at least two proctored exams; including the final exam.