An Introduction to Respondus

McMaster University

Why is Respondus Being Used?

Proctored testing is in alignment with McMaster's practices and policies. It is one way of ensuring the integrity of your academic work, the integrity of your peers, and the integrity of your McMaster degree. The Respondus online proctoring tool was selected and is integrated into Avenue to Learn.

What Data is Collected?

Respondus collects video and audio recordings, an image of your student ID, and data regarding your activity, including eye movement and the time taken to answer specific questions. This is tracked using an algorithm, not a human proctor. The data collected comes in the form of a report that is accessed by the instructor. This report is to be reviewed by your instructor or approved instructional staff and remains within Avenue to Learn unless they find a reason to escalate it to the Office of Academic Integrity.

Privacy

Your personal information will only be retained by Respondus for 12 months after it is collected, in compliance with the Undergraduate Course Management Policies. McMaster may be required to request and retain a copy of the information collected by Respondus beyond this time period when it is related to a grade appeal or an allegation under the Academic Integrity Policy.

Your information will not be shared with any other third-party, and Respondus cannot view or access your student information on Avenue to Learn. Your instructor or approved instructional staff have sole access to personal information and testing data collected.

Security Considerations:

- There is no obligation to keep Respondus installed on your computer when you are not writing a proctored exam
- When using Respondus, there is no live monitoring by a person
- A video/audio recording is produced that can be reviewed if required by your instructor or approved instructional staff
- Respondus employs security and privacy controls to ensure the safe and secure use of their technology consistent with industry standards
- All software firms are required to report any security or privacy breaches to the users of their technology consistent with industry standards

Additional Resources

If you have further questions or concerns, please see the resources posted on Avenue to Learn or contact your course instructor about the use of Respondus.

Specific concerns may also be addressed to:
- Privacy-related concerns **privacy@mcmaster.ca**
- Academic Integrity Policy questions **acinteg@mcmaster.ca**
- Academic accommodations **sas@mcmaster.ca**
- Data storage, computer systems, security and file corruption **UTS helpdesk**
- Exam related anxiety **Student Wellness Centre**

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