Written Assignment Unit 3: Proctoring

University of the People

UNIV 1001 Online Education Strategies

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Proctoring is monitoring a student and the exam-taking process during an exam to prevent cheating (Norris, 2018). A proctor ensures that the student actually takes the exam and verifies student identity. University of the People (UoPeople) uses proctors to maintain academic integrity and prevent unethical behavior during testing. As Norris (2018) said, cheating is a very real concern for online classes. Proctoring is one strategy UoPeople uses to assure academic honesty. Students need to complete five proctored exams for an associate’s degree and 11 proctored exams for a bachelor’s degree (UoPeople, n.d.).

According to UoPeople (n.d.), students must select their own proctor and potential proctors need to meet a number of criteria. Unless students use a proctoring service like ProctorU, students are forbidden from paying the proctor. Proctors have to be both responsible and 21 or older. Proctors also have access to internet because UoPeople must be able to contact them. Most importantly, proctors cannot have any conflict of interest. “The proctor cannot be a relative of the student, a student at UoPeople or an applicant, nor can the proctor have a conflict of interest or a vested interest in the student’s grade or performance on his/her exam” (UoPeople, n.d., para. 11).

While using a proctor sounds like a lot of work, the process is actually very easy. At registration, the student needs to enter the proctor’s contact details (UoPeople, n.d.). This includes full name and all contact information. The university then contacts the proctor to confirm details. At the time of the exam the proctor needs to enter a code so the student can start the exam, so ensuring accurate contact information is very important. The student is also responsible for scheduling a time for the exam.

As selecting a proctor is an important student responsibility, it is important to choose carefully. A local librarian is a good choice for a proctor as librarians could meet all of UoPeople’s requirements. A librarian would have no conflict of interest with student academic achievement and would be at least 21 years old. In fact, librarians are a possibility listed on UoPeople’s website (UoPeople, n.d.). However, a third-party system like ProctorU - while more expensive than finding a volunteer proctor - would be far more convenient and would be the best choice for this author.

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References

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