

ACADEMIC CONTINUITY TEAM

In this edition of the ACT Update, find out how to help students connect on campus, and about strategies and technology tools to support academic integrity!

Connecting Students

It has been a challenging year for our students, and many are eager to connect with campus and each other. Consider ways you can help students connect with campus resources, and with their fellow students:



- Tell students about academic resources:** all of our tutoring resources on campus, including the **Writing Center**, the **Math Assistance Center**, **Maag Library**, and the **Center for Student Progress** offer help both in-person and virtually.
- Let students know there is help for their physical and mental health:** YSU offers **recreational**, **counseling**, **medical**, and **food** support for students, but they may not know the services available to them. Also check out this **guide** for faculty on helping a distressed student.
- Encourage students to use the YSU app:** the **app** isn't just for scanning into their class--they can access Blackboard, their ID card, all student and academic services, as well as events and student organizations. There is also a social media platform for students to connect with each other.
- Make students aware of technology tools:** let students know that they can use all of the YSU collaborative tools for free. Here are links for student guides to **Webex meetings**, **Microsoft Teams**, **Onedrive**, and **Office 365** tools. Students can use these tools to connect virtually, work on group projects, or to socialize.

More info is available on the **Student Support** and **Connecting Students** ACT pages!



Academic Integrity

With first exams coming up in the next few weeks, some of you may be considering how to maintain academic integrity in your assignments, particularly in hybrid or online environments. Consider these three basic approaches to supporting academic integrity:

- Virtue integration:** encourage students to strive for excellence and integrity. Good practices include:
 - Focus on higher-order skills in assignments and exams
 - Relate to professional ethics and career
 - Ask students to sign statement of originality
- Prevention:** limit opportunities for student cheating. Good practices include:
 - Ensure student understanding of the **Code of Conduct**
 - Require drafts and use **Blackboard Safe Assign** for written assignments.
- Policing:** meant to catch and punish the student who practices academic dishonesty. Good practices include:
 - Maintain test security by using a proctoring tool (see below)
 - Set **time limits** for tests, or questions, in Blackboard
 - Report** all cheating

YSU's Proctoring Tool-Respondus

YSU's Office of Cyberlearning offers the Respondus LockDown Browser and Monitor to proctor tests in the hybrid and online environments. This tool is already integrated with Blackboard and is easy to use. You can register for a free **instructor training webinar** to learn how you and your students can utilize this tool, or visit the **ACT Technology Guides** page for info. *Note that Respondus does not work with Chromebooks, so if a student only has access to this type of computer please contact **Jessica Chill** for other options.*

Visit the ACT resources on **Maintaining Academic Integrity** for more information on good practices and technology tool guides, including a video that demonstrates SafeAssign and Respondus.

Image credit: libguides.cac.edu/AcademicIntegrity

ACT Consults

Please remember that all ACT members are available to consult and assist in your course design and delivery. ACT members have expertise in course design, assessment, pedagogy, Blackboard, Webex, Microsoft apps, technology tools, and more. Book an appointment that fits your schedule by visiting the **ACT consults page**.



The Academic Continuity Team (ACT) is a collaborative of faculty and staff from the Institute for Teaching and Learning, Office of Cyberlearning, and Information Technology Customer Services. Our offices have been working together since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in order to coordinate services, provide training and resources, and support faculty teaching. Visit our **website** for resources, training opportunities, or to contact an ACT member.

Academic Continuity Team

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