Honorlock™ Customer Success Story

Kate Beverage, Director of Technology for Teaching and Learning Services
Lindsey Van Gieson, Instructional Technology Systems Manager of Academic Technology
Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, Massachusetts

Using Remote Proctoring in Online STEM Environments

Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) was facing the challenge of finding an online proctoring solution that would be the right fit for their online paper-based assessments. The faculty wanted to be able to see the students' work and ensure that online students were meeting the academic integrity standards on-premise students were expected to meet. They also needed flexible test-taking options for students.

Online Proctoring Requirements

- Ability to proctor paper-based online exams
- Ability for instructors to review proctored exam sessions
- Ability for students to scan and submit notes for the exam
- Good tech support and communication from the vendor
- Platform agnostic (PC, Mac)

WPI did several pilot tests with other solutions before they ultimately selected Honorlock. “Honorlock met all of our requirements, they were willing to work with us on proctoring paper-based exams, they had a robust training and support model, and we felt it was the easiest transition for faculty,” said Van Gieson. The college began using Honorlock for their summer online courses. “We started summer 2019 with Honorlock for all undergraduate courses with a majority being math courses. We had approximately 500 unique student users taking multiple exams,” said Beverage. “We noticed an immediate improvement compared to our previous proctoring solution!”

When the pandemic hit, Lindsey and Kate had 10 days to get 300 faculty teaching 700 courses fully online, which was a huge undertaking. Many of WPI’s faculty new to online education were seeking a proctoring solution for their online exams. One faculty member sent this evaluation to colleagues who were navigating the move of face to face courses online. “Colleagues, I used Honorlock in my E1 Calculus course last summer and many faculty members in mathematical science also used it. My general take is that for online proctoring, Honorlock is a great tool for proctoring math exams and online courses,” read Beverage in an email from her faculty member. “When the AI is triggered, a skilled
human proctor intervenes. This model worked better than the competitor’s model having all exams proctored by people who were unable to properly provide student support.”

Implementation and Support
Prior to partnering with Honorlock, WPI’s previous proctoring solution did not provide the support the faculty needed to be successful in delivering online assessments. “The other proctoring solution was not very supportive. The support team was not open to receiving feedback,” said Beverage. Upon adoption of Honorlock, Beverage and her team were surprised and appreciative of the level of support received from their client success manager. “Honorlock’s support model is great! Our client success manager, Americo, has always been very responsive to both faculty and students. The live chat has been very helpful for us. The resources provided for faculty in terms of creating exams and proctoring options when enabling exams are excellent!”

With the rapid transition to online learning during the pandemic, students raised concerns regarding their privacy. “We get questions from students about privacy and Americo has been great about responding to those and pointing us to Honorlock resources that will help reassure students that their privacy is maintained,” said Beverage.

Best Practices for Delivering Online Proctored Exams
Beverage and Van Gieson shared these best practices for others implementing online proctoring.
1. Remind instructors to include specific instructions for Honorlock proctors when they enable their exams (especially with paper-based exams where the student may be looking down to solve an exam question)
2. Prepare a list for faculty of the recommended settings for Canvas and Honorlock

Results with Honorlock
1. Successfully proctor paper-based assessments and certify the integrity
2. The modest learning curve for instructors and students allows them to focus on teaching and learning and not on the technology
3. Unlimited flexibility for students taking online exam

3. Designate a department exam champion who is trained in Canvas and Honorlock and has access to the Honorlock CSM to troubleshoot on behalf of the department
4. Develop an exam question pool to deter cheating
5. Give extra time for paper exam submission logistics
6. Partner with instructional designers when designing exams to mitigate cheating
7. Have students take the Honorlock practice exam. Doing the practice exam takes a lot of pressure off - you don’t want to add extra stress or pressure on students when they’re already trying to learn the content.

About WPI:
Worcester Polytechnic Institute is a private institution founded in 1865 in Worcester, Massachusetts. The college supports over 6,000 students offering undergraduate, masters, and doctoral programs in science, engineering, and technology. The university’s curriculum features a flexible, rigorous program that is project-based and globally engaged, aimed at delivering a quality experience and a positive impact for the communities it partners with.

Learn more at honorlock.com.