

# Securing Peace of Mind for Online Assessments

## ExamGuard

Pearson LearningStudio is a comprehensive, flexible and fully supported environment for personalized online learning in higher education. Pearson LearningStudio ensures that faculty and administrators have the integrated platform, tools, content and support they need to create, manage and measure successful online learning experiences.

As more and more learning is assessed in online exams, cheating and exam integrity are at the forefront of educators' minds. While proctored testing centers are a good preventative measure, they can be costly to implement. Institutions need exam security options that can be implemented from a distance.

ExamGuard, powered by Respondus®, was created to prevent cheating within Pearson LearningStudio courses. This tool is equally effective for proctored examination settings or for fully online courses. By locking down computer functionality whenever an online assessment begins, ExamGuard significantly reduces the opportunity for student cheating.

### Enhancing Security with Effective Tools

ExamGuard provides peace of mind for faculty and administrators about the security of their online assessments. This tool is essentially a browser within a browser that shuts down all other functions of the computer while the student is taking an exam, prohibiting them from:

- *Printing the exam*
- *Copying and pasting anything to/from the exam*
- *Browsing the Web*
- *Opening or using any other applications*
- *Using the CTL-ALT-DEL function*
- *Clicking into any other content areas within the course*

The screenshot shows a Pearson LearningStudio assessment interface for a 'College Algebra' course. The interface includes a navigation sidebar on the left with options like 'Course Home', 'Syllabus', and 'Exam'. The main content area displays a math problem: '16. Calculate using distributive property  $-(a - 2b)$ : (Points: 1)'. Below the question are four radio button options:  $a + 2b$ ,  $-a - 2b$ ,  $a - 2b$ , and  $-a + 2b$ . A context menu is open over the options, showing standard actions like 'Cut', 'Copy', 'Paste', 'Select All', and 'Print', as well as Respondus-specific actions like 'Convert selected links to Adobe PDF'.

*ExamGuard prohibits copying of exam questions.*

## Painless Activation Process

Institutions that choose to use ExamGuard have two options for activating exam security in Pearson LearningStudio courses. ExamGuard security can be enabled for all exams created within Pearson LearningStudio, or administrators can choose to allow individual instructors to activate the ExamGuard setting whenever they feel additional security is needed.

ExamGuard is simple for instructors to use. Faculty members can simply turn on the ExamGuard setting for an assessment that they have created in the Pearson LearningStudio exam-authoring environment. This provides the flexibility to use ExamGuard for high-stakes assessments, such as final exams, while deactivating it for practice quizzes or self assessments.

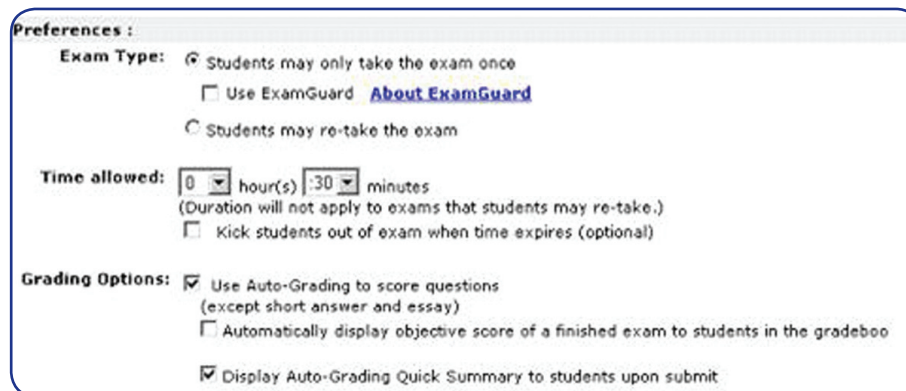
## Transparent Student Experience

From the students' perspective, ExamGuard is a transparent application. Following a quick, one-time installation of Respondus software, it automatically launches from all Pearson LearningStudio assessments that have the ExamGuard setting turned on.

When students enter an ExamGuard assessment, they are prompted to save their work and close all other applications. With only the browser open, students can enter the assessment in ExamGuard. ExamGuard assessments offer students the following features to prevent cheating.

- Assessments displayed in full screen mode only
- No menu bars available
- No Windows caption bar available
- No information is stored in the browser's history folder

When students have completed and submitted the assessment, ExamGuard will close and students can continue working in the course in a traditional browser.



The screenshot shows the 'Preferences' dialog box for ExamGuard. It is divided into three sections: 'Exam Type', 'Time allowed', and 'Grading Options'. Under 'Exam Type', there are two radio buttons: 'Students may only take the exam once' (selected) and 'Students may re-take the exam'. Below this is a checkbox for 'Use ExamGuard' with a link to 'About ExamGuard'. Under 'Time allowed', there are two dropdown menus for 'hour(s)' (set to 0) and 'minutes' (set to 30). Below these are two checkboxes: 'Kick students out of exam when time expires (optional)' (unchecked) and 'Display Auto-Grading Quick Summary to students upon submit' (checked). Under 'Grading Options', there are three checkboxes: 'Use Auto-Grading to score questions (except short answer and essay)' (checked), 'Automatically display objective score of a finished exam to students in the gradebook' (unchecked), and 'Display Auto-Grading Quick Summary to students upon submit' (checked).

*ExamGuard features a simple interface for faculty and administrators.*

## Why ExamGuard?

*Browsers are designed to be open and flexible. In online exams, however, this flexibility can become a security risk. ExamGuard limits the students' browser capabilities and their ability to cheat.*

**To learn more, visit [www.pearsonlearningstudio.com](http://www.pearsonlearningstudio.com)**

**PEARSON**