



# THE CRUCIAL NEED FOR REMOTE PROCTORING

## AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT FROM ATI.

Educators,

The challenges of the pandemic have shined a spotlight on concerns about remote proctoring. Because the use of remote proctoring is purposefully interwoven into many of our assessment solutions, we want to be fully transparent in addressing these concerns.

First, we recognize the difficulties presented in performing student assessments right now, especially with respect to proctoring tests. During this difficult time, we recommend flexibility in evaluating students' learning. For some assignments, evaluation methods other than remotely proctored assessments are certainly acceptable and should definitely be considered.

Second, we believe remote proctoring is critical to the secure use of tests for verifying students' competence in becoming confident, competent nurses — in dealing with situations where a patient's life could be on the line. We can't emphasize enough that we believe the stakes are simply too high to consider any other assessment method when in-person proctoring is not a viable option.

That belief, however, is not incompatible with acknowledging concerns about remote-proctoring technology. We recognize the technology's limits. It is an imperfect solution and we are working with our partners to resolve some of these challenges. We realize that, in some circumstances, its biometric functionality does not work, and this may be offensive and disruptive to students affected by the issue. We realize, too, that students may be uncomfortable with being watched remotely and would prefer that their living conditions remained private.

We also recognize that remote proctoring may misidentify an individual or flag an event that does not, in fact, involve cheating.

We are reassured, however, that a human element is always present with our remote proctoring. Despite the algorithms and ingenuity that go into developing the technology, remote proctoring is not simply a computer program determining whether a students' test results are valid. A human — a trained professional on the ATI Test Security Team — reviews critical data and ultimately decides whether to accept test results when a student's exam session raises flags. ATI does not act without careful consideration of all available information.

Additionally, we are committed to making the technology better every single day. We are dedicated to working with our partners to ensure that such difficulties happen less and less — until they don't happen at all.

In the meantime, we believe **remote proctoring remains essential to nursing education**.

We believe effective and secure exam proctoring is vital — for multiple reasons.

- Remote proctoring ensures students take their exams under the same conditions, protecting fairness.
- Remote proctoring ensures test results are valid and reliable, allowing nurse educators to make meaningful judgments about students' progress toward content mastery, graduation, and NCLEX readiness.
- Taken together, these capabilities contribute to the essential goal of ensuring students have the knowledge and skills to provide quality patient care.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the public has hailed nurses as heroes. Even before this health crisis, the public recognized nurses' crucial responsibility, consistently naming them — year after year — as the most trustworthy professionals above all others.

Patients' trust is rooted in a nurse's knowledge and ability to make critical judgments at a moment's notice. It is based on a nurse's significant impact on patients' healthcare. While doctors and other health experts make decisions about medical events and procedures, the nurse is the one person at the bedside who must recognize when a patient's condition takes a negative turn. The nurse must be prepared to immediately intervene in these situations. **A nurse must know what to do.**

As difficult as these past months have been, the pandemic does not change the objectives of nursing programs or the need for effective exam proctoring. For now, **remote proctoring is the best tool we have** to ensure that nursing programs meet the profession's need for competent, practice-ready nurses.

We are committed to using remote-proctoring technology in reliably serving our clients and remaining a trusted partner with nursing programs. As always, we strive to offer the best options available for nursing education.

Sincerely,

Mark Williams-Abrams, *Chief Product Officer*

— ADDITIONAL INFORMATION —

Students' and instructors' concerns about remote proctoring have served as guideposts for improving ATI's remote-proctoring abilities. We address several of the most common objections in a [post on our Faculty blog at atitesting.com](#).

If you want to learn more about ATI's remote proctoring options, please visit [atinursing.com/remote-proctoring/](http://atinursing.com/remote-proctoring/).