

# Are Virtual Exams Here to Stay?

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## INTRODUCTION

The pandemic forced many classes to pivot to the virtual environment, which included shifting exams to a virtual format. As we go back to teaching in-person, virtual exams may still have a place in our courses. Offering exams online has both its advantages and disadvantages for both students and instructors, so what is the best choice for a course?

## ADVANTAGES OF VIRTUAL EXAMS

- Flexible Timing & Location
- Less Distractions
- Immediate Feedback
- Can Provide More In-Class Time

## DISADVANTAGES OF VIRTUAL EXAMS

- Technological Issues
- Student Cannot Ask Questions
- Academic Integrity

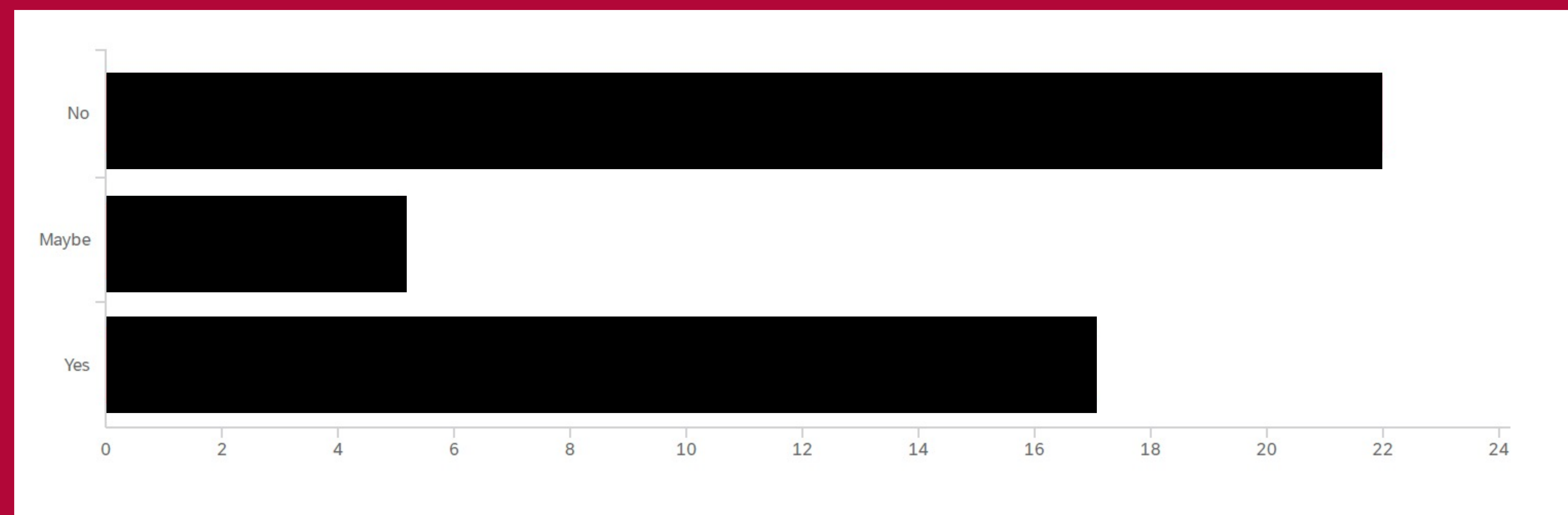
## METHODS

• Students who have previously taken a virtually proctored exam (e.g., with the use of proctorio) were asked to complete a short survey regarding proctored exams. In total, 45 students completed the survey and provided feedback.



**64% of students prefer to take proctored exams *virtually* while 34% would still like to take their exams *in-person*.**

Student responses to being asked if they find proctored virtual exams to be more stressful than proctored in-person exams:



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## OPEN COMMENTS FROM STUDENTS:

- “[With virtual exams] I feel more able to take my time and focus on the exam itself instead of worrying about the environment and students around me.”
- “I like being able to take an exam virtually wherever I’m most comfortable.”
- “Proctored virtual exams stress me out.”
- “I don’t like the possibility of interruptions or distractions that may occur at home with a virtual exam.”
- “Taking a virtually proctored exam feels more invasive.”

## DISCUSSION

- Virtual exams can provide flexibility for students and instructors; however, they do present with their own set of issues such as technological challenges and possible cheating. If virtual exams are used, it may be valuable to provide an in-person option, and to evaluate the parameters of the exam (e.g., randomized questions, large question pool, etc.)