

Respondus Monitor Flagging Equity Concerns (developed by the Academic Testing Committee)

The “video flagging” functions of Respondus Monitor are part of a national discussion of equity in academic testing. Flagged events, like all of Respondus Monitor, are not designed to determine whether a student has cheated or not. Rather, it is a tool to help identify anomalous activities, or situations where a student engaged in behaviors that may indicate academic dishonesty while taking a traditional examination. What users in the national landscape have found, however, is that sometimes these video flags occur not because of student behaviors but due to the limitations of the software’s capacity with certain student testing environments, diverse student skin tones, facial coverings, etc. Because of these limitations, it is imperative that we do not use video flags from Respondus Monitor when considering student academic dishonesty. As an institution, we ask that you use data from your test scores to prompt review of videos instead of relying on the flags that have been found to sometimes bias the review process. In addition, we ask you to consider these additional equity concerns from Columbus State faculty when using Respondus Monitor:

- If using video regularly, instructors should watch the video for all students, not just some students. Alternatively, instructors can decide not to watch any students.
- Instructors need to be aware and mindful of their observational bias regarding cheating from students of color.
- Instructors must look at the behaviors rather than the student.
- Instructors need to be aware that technologies that monitor faces have different outcomes for students with darker skin tones.
- Instructors need to be mindful of how Respondus Monitors flags students who wear attire that covers or obscures the face.
- Instructor is mindful of observational bias surrounding the testing environment.