

## Take home exams

### Background and overview

Take-home exams might be a good option for our 4000-level courses that already incorporate short answer responses into their final exam. One of the biggest concerns with take-home exams is that integrity will be reduced. It is imperative that you design your take-home exam in a way that maintains integrity. Below are some tips to help you get started!

### Format

- Decide how many questions you will have; I use 5 for my take-home exams
- Broader questions that require students to practice their evaluative judgment and decision-making skills are encouraged
- Avoid questions that are definition or descriptive
- Provide a template that students can fill in to make the marking easier; we use Gradescope after to score responses
- Provided a recommended word limit or suggested word count to ensure responses are standardized
- Require students to submit their exam on OWL and use Turnitin to reduce plagiarism

### Expectations

- Communicate with students about when they will receive their questions and when they are due; I usually provide 8-10 days in a traditional exam period
- Discuss where you expect student to get information to support their responses (e.g. lectures only, lectures and supplemental)
- Discuss with students how they can collaborate appropriately but provide individual responses that maintain integrity
- Discuss how each question will be evaluated (e.g. ideas, flow, writing style, etc.); I like to use a 5-point scale for each response

e.g. 4000-level Interdisciplinary Medical Sciences

*Download the template, save it as your [lastname\_firstname\_exam], and answer the questions in the boxes provided. You must upload your document to OWL by the deadline. Your answers should be no more than 300 words single-spaced and each response should be on its own page in the document. When formulating your responses to different questions, do not use the same points twice and ensure that your answers are varied and cover multiple lectures. Your answers will be formulated from the lectures; therefore, no references are required. In general, use the CER (claim, evidence, rationale) framework to support a clear and concise answer in full sentences. Good luck and make sure your responses are your own!*

Below is a copy of a final exam used in previous iterations of this course.





Name:

ID #:

**Question 3:** Diabetes complications are the result of untreated hyperglycemia. Does this mean that only individuals with unmanaged diabetes will develop complications in their lifetime? Is it that simple?

Word count:



