

**FIU**

Center for  
Testing and  
Career Certification

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

# THE EXAMINER

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# A warm Welcome

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# Joselyn

Padilla



The Center for Testing and Career Certification (CTCC) is thrilled to extend a warm welcome to Joselyn Padilla, one of the newest additions to our esteemed team. Joselyn joins us as a program specialist, bringing with her a wealth of skills and a keen sense of awareness that set her apart. From the moment Joselyn stepped into our lab, her attention to detail has been truly impressive. Her sharp observation abilities make her an invaluable asset, ensuring that our processes maintain the highest standards of accuracy and precision. In addition to her professionalism, Joselyn is a courteous and respectful team member. Her positive and collaborative attitude enhances the work environment, fostering a culture of mutual respect and cooperation. Joselyn's dedication to the highest standards aligns seamlessly with CTCC's commitment to excellence.

As we embark on new testing initiatives, onboard more certification programs, and improve our processes, Joselyn's skill set will undoubtedly play a pivotal role in achieving success. We look forward to the fresh perspectives and contributions she brings, confident that her presence will elevate our standards even further. Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Joselyn as she becomes an integral part of our CTCC family. We are excited to have her on board and anticipate great accomplishments together. Cheers to a successful journey ahead!



welcome

# Stress:

## *Making it Work for You*



Throughout your life, you've completed an unfathomable number of tests and as you got older and the tests got harder, you may have found it much more difficult to prepare for them. Of course, once you start having problems with studying, you develop everyone's best friend, STRESS, and everything becomes worse to the point where it's easy to think success is impossible. Well, we're here to tell you that's a load of hooey, hogwash if you will, and that you can put a stop to it just by following these easy steps.

So the last sentence and the title are untrue. There are no surefire ways to avoid ever being stressed. Everyone is unique with his/her own experiences, and what might stress one person may not affect another. Likewise, what helps you de-stress may end up only making things worse for the person next to you. We are all different. Apologies for the clickbait, we just needed you to keep reading this article. Now that you're still here, let's talk about something that's true and hopefully helpful. Let's talk about what stress is and how it's actually working for you. Stress, if Google is to be believed, is "a state of mental or emotional strain or tension resulting from adverse or very demanding circumstances." Now, the key word there is "emotional."

All it really does is tell you that you care a lot about an assignment, exam, or your future. You are not doing anything wrong by being stressed. If anything, you're already off to a great start just by feeling that emotion.

Stress becomes a problem when you let it overwhelm you. You can absolutely have too much of a good thing and stress is no exception. Too much of it will have you practically paralyzed and unable to accomplish your goals, and in this scary and constantly changing world, failure is simply not an option.

When you feel stress overtaking you, you need to stop, stand up, and do something else. Remember how we mentioned that everyone has his/her own methods of de-stressing? That's the time to utilize those methods and to bring yourself back down to baseline. You can't get rid of stress forever and quite frankly, you shouldn't try to. Stress is what keeps you in the game, focused, with your eyes on the prize. Make it work for you. You are the master of your own universe and no one else and nothing else is, especially not stress.

# More than Pencils, Scratch Paper and Scanning:

## *Changing Perceptions about Exam Proctoring*

Exam proctoring is a critical part of the education system, which is based on fairness and academic integrity. Traditionally, a proctored exam required the physical presence of a proctor/invigator to watch applicants and supervise every aspect of the proctoring method. This method has evolved beyond in-person and is now administered remotely or with Artificial Intelligence. Exam proctoring is a specialized professional sector that needs ongoing vendor training, professional development, and academic pursuits. There are national and regional professional testing organizations that facilitate collaboration among testing professionals, testing vendors, legislatures, and other policymakers.

FIU's Center for Testing and Career Certification (CTCC) at Modesto Maidique Campus and Biscayne Bay Campus are both certified by the National College Testing Association and the Florida Association of College Test Administrators (NCTA). The NCTA currently has "more than 2,300 members, representing over 600 post-secondary institutions and more than 60 corporations and certification agencies in the United States, Canada, and around the globe" (Sara et al., 2023). The NCTA website has a variety of materials, including bylaws, reports, white papers, journals, a grant program, and standards. The point of emphasis is that exam proctoring is more than pencils, scratch paper, and scanning.

Many Florida State Universities and Florida Colleges have increased the provision of remote proctoring in response to the rise in online coursework. Remote proctors are often taught to use various vendor remote proctoring solutions and home-grown alternatives. Remote solutions include live remote vendor proctors with record and review, AI auto-proctoring, and hybrid proctoring (advanced AI combined with live remote proctors). FIU testing centers use all of the remote solutions listed above in their Virtual Remote Testing Center. As a matter of fact, CTCC is currently integrating Smarter Services hybrid proctoring (advanced AI with live remote FIU proctors) for the Foreign Language Achievement Testing Services exam. Smarter Services' hybrid solution will enable the vRTC to transition from one-to-one to one-to-many proctoring.

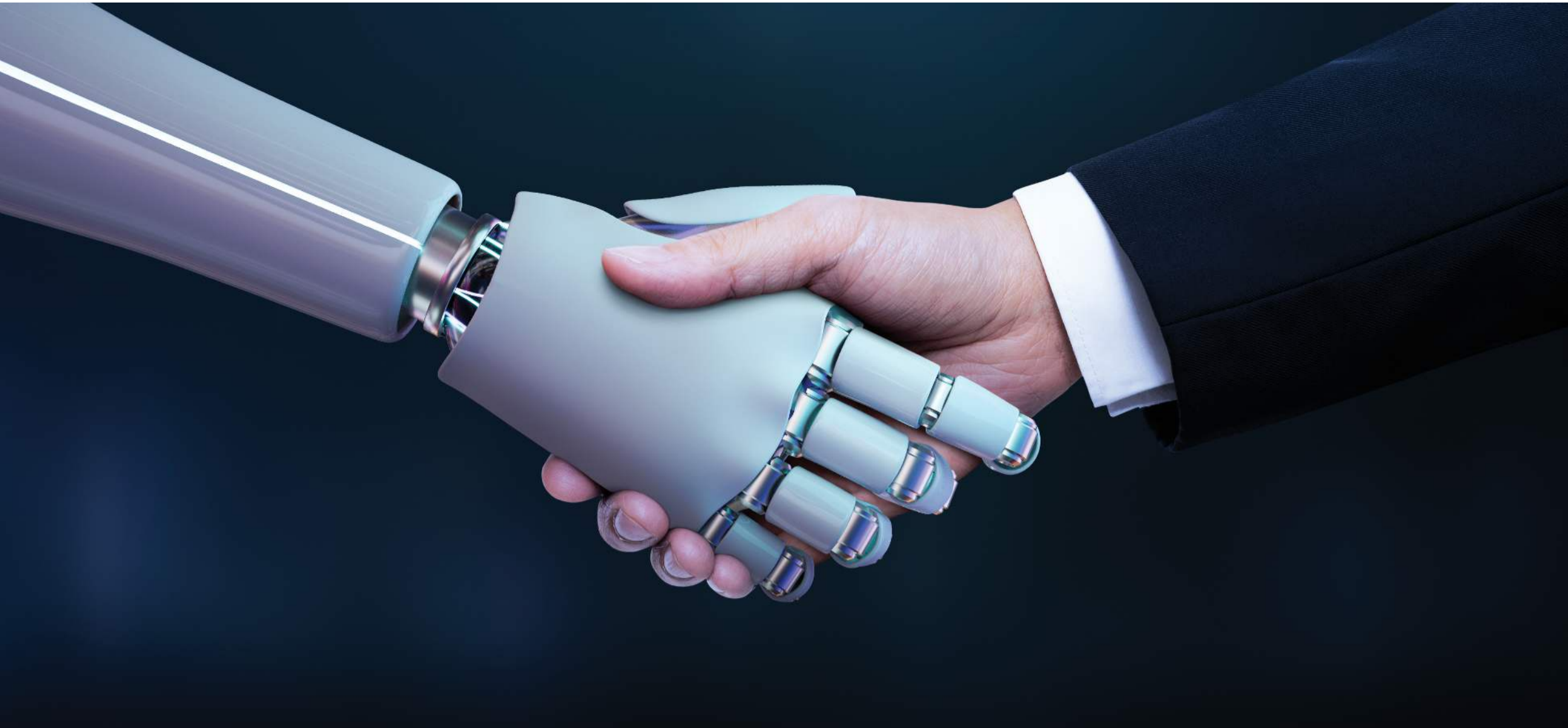
Modern testing and assessment centers are tasked with delivering a variety of extra services, including disability testing, credit-by-exam, career certifications, departmental and community collaborations, and exams to meet different graduation requirements. The latter is especially true near graduation, when the mind is focused, and worry reigns supreme; proctors are the best, lifesavers, and superheroes. Yes, proctoring is more than just passing out pencils and scratch paper. Proctoring, at its essence, protects academic integrity and promotes fairness to all.

# SAT goes Digital

On March 9th, 2024, at the Biscayne Bay Campus, FIU administered its first ever Digital SAT exam. For decades, the well-known standardized test was synonymous with all things paper and pencil, from stipulations about pencil and calculator variations, zig-zagging seating-charts, 50-page testing manuals, and boxes of subject-specific materials, stacked neatly toward the front of make-shift testing rooms, but that was yesterday. For the past several years, College Board's psychometricians, content experts, and researchers have been preoccupied with the development and refinement of the nascent digital SAT. The shift from paper and pencil represents not only practical considerations, but it is also grounded in foundational best practices and honors the technological leaps in measurement and assessment design.

According to College Board, several key research studies were undertaken on the way to the legacy SAT's transformation, including Curriculum surveys; Alignment studies; Reading and Writing pilot studies; Timing studies; Student surveys and focus groups; Cognitive labs; Concordance studies; and Validity studies. In terms of the latter, Validity studies, FIU along with 10 other institutions across the U.S participated in the pilot predictive validity study which looked at relationships between digital SAT scores and key college and career readiness outcomes.





Center for Testing and Career Certification (CTCC) director, Dr. Dwight Nimblett, who was the principal investigator and coordinator of FIU's participation in the national validity study, shared that the pilot predictive validity study, focused on first-semester college performance and the data revealed that the re-imagined digital SAT scores are as predictive of students' college performance as are paper-and-pencil SAT scores (Marini, Westrick, Young, Ng & Shaw, 2023).

For CTCC's testing practitioners who on March 9th, administered the first-time digital SAT, the elimination of booklets, and paper seating-charts, as well as the ability to monitor examinees' activities from the vantage point of their toolkit-ready testing-laptops was a welcomed change. From a test-day management point of view, "the digital SAT allows proctors to do what they do best and that is to ensure the fairness and integrity of the test-taker experience" according to Sinclair Daly, who coordinated the BBC digital SAT administration. To the students who experienced their first ever digital SAT, they were allowed to bring their own fully charged familiar devices on which they took their exams. The shift to digital also saw the test-taking time considerably reduced from upward of four hours, to just over 2 hours for the regular administration. For many students, the reduced testing-time and use of a familiar device are significant changes. CTCC was happy to have hosted the first ever digital SAT and looks forward to its continued support of our prospective students and surrounding communities.

## References

Sara. (n.d.). About the NCTA. <https://www.ncta-testing.org/about>

Marini, J.P., Westrick, P.A., Young, L, Ng, H., & Shaw, E.J. (2023). Digital SAT® Predictive Validity Study A First Look (College Board Research Note). New York: College Board.  
<https://research.collegeboard.org/media/pdf/Digital%20SAT%28R%>



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