

# Brown University's AI Cheating Scandal — A Cautionary Case in Undetected GenAI Use on Take-Home Exams

AI in Education · Good practice · United States of America

Quality score: 7/100

Evidence strength: Descriptive / self-reported

## Summary

After Brown University economics professor Roberto Serrano moved a midterm to a take-home format, grades spiked implausibly — 40 of 86 students scored a perfect mark — exposing how easily generative AI evades detection on remote assessments.

## Key dimensions

| Dimension                              | Score |
|----------------------------------------|-------|
| Evidence of learning impact            | 0/3   |
| Equity & inclusion                     | 0/3   |
| Transparency, ethics & data protection | 1/3   |
| Teacher capability & pedagogy          | 0/3   |
| Scalability & sustainability           | 0/3   |

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

## Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-08-06

[Brown University, Department of Economics \(ECON 1170\)](#) — accessed 2026-08-06

[Inside Higher Ed — Brown Professor Suspects Most of His Class Used AI to Cheat](#) — accessed 2026-08-06

[The Boston Globe — Brown University professor raises AI cheating concerns](#) — accessed 2026-08-06

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