

UNAM's 2026 Online Entrance-Exam Fiasco — A Cautionary Case in AI-Assisted Cheating at Scale

AI in Education · Good practice · Mexico

Quality score: 7/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

UNAM ran Mexico's largest university entrance exam fully online for the first time in 2026. Score anomalies — top marks nearly quintupling vs. 2021–2025 baselines — revealed AI-assisted mass cheating, forcing about 58,000 of roughly 158,000 applicants to retake it in person.

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 2026-08-31

Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) — accessed 2026-08-31

NPR — The AI cheating disaster that forced Mexico's top university back to pen and paper — accessed 2026-08-31

Mexico News Daily — Nearly 60,000 UNAM applicants must retake entrance exam following AI cheating fiasco — accessed 2026-08-31

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