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PRESS RELEASE: *Classroom Engagement Software Aids in COVID-19 Contact Tracing*

Professors at the University of Texas at Austin are now using educational technology to help prevent the spread of Covid-19 in the classroom. Squarecap, a classroom engagement software that an award-winning UT professor created in 2015, can automatically track which students are coming to class and where they are seated. While this seat map feature was originally designed for teachers to automatically group students for peer instruction, and help them with real-time feedback, many professors have realized that they can also download this seating information for each class.

Professors at the university started looking at Squarecap to help solve this problem when the school announced that in-person professors would be required to keep a seating chart for each class and be ready to turn in these charts whenever needed. While some professors with small classes have chosen to use assigned seating, those who teach large classes realized that this is not a feasible solution, as there would be no way for them to verify if students were sitting in the correct seat.
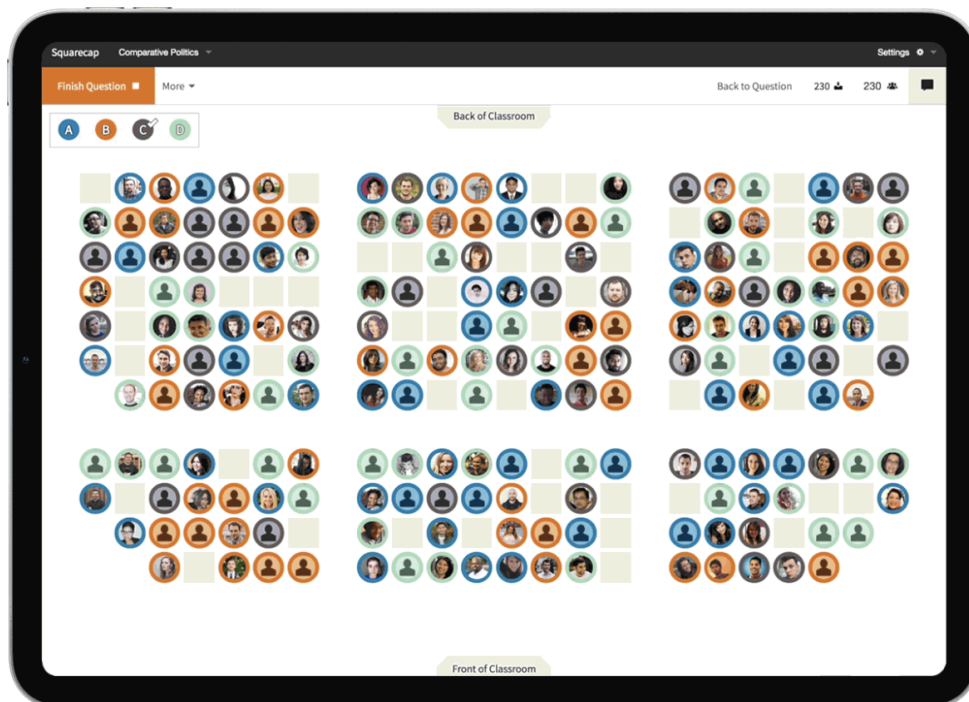
With Squarecap, professors can build their own classroom seat map or simply add an existing seat map to their account. Students sign in to Squarecap as they enter the classroom and either

click on the seat or enter the seat number for where they have chosen to sit that day. This information is saved for each class period and student, eliminating the need for assigned seating.

Professors can bring up this seat map at any time in the class to use for help with student names, engagement data, and automatic grouping. After class, a simple download of student information makes all of the seating chart information easily accessible so that contact tracers at the university can identify anyone who may have come into close contact with a student who has tested positive. Squarecap is proud to provide this type of support for both professors and students to aid in their academic success and ability to prevent future infections from the COVID-19 virus.

What is Squarecap?

Squarecap is an easy to use engagement tool created by an award-winning professor to provide the in-class or online engagement support that modern teachers and students need.

Our interactive features have been proven to support student success by automatically tracking daily attendance, increasing lecture comprehension through live questions and personalized feedback, and facilitating a live Ask & Vote for hesitant students to address gaps in content knowledge.

We offer a personalized seat map that teachers can use to engage with students during class, view how the class is performing as a whole, and automatically group students for class discussions and peer instruction. Squarecap can also upload any available question bank to make it easy for teachers to create assignments and engagement checks.

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