

Should You Use Generative AI in Coursework?

Check if the use of Generative AI is permitted by your instructor.

Make sure you fully understand your instructor's AI policy. If AI use is allowed, clarify which specific tools, activities, or course components you can use it for.

- Review the syllabus, assignment guidelines, and URCourses to find your instructor's AI policy.
- If the policy isn't clear, or if you're unsure, ask your instructor.

Note: Misuse of AI tools may be considered academic misconduct, which can lead to serious consequences such as failing grades, suspension, or expulsion as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.

If the answer is...

Yes.

You are allowed to use AI in this course, as long as it adheres to the general guidelines set by your instructor.

- Ensure you use AI ethically and maintain academic integrity to avoid misconduct.

Yes, with restrictions.

You may use AI in this course, but only under specific conditions set by your instructor. AI restrictions might include:

- a specified form (e.g., text generators)
- a specified tool (e.g., ChatGPT)
- a specified use (ex. brainstorming)
- for specified assignments or tasks

No.

AI use is not allowed in this course for any purpose. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Text generation (e.g., ChatGPT, Claude)
- Image generation (e.g., DALL-E, Flux AI)
- Sound or music generation (e.g., Suno)
- Video generation (e.g., Runway, Luma AI)
- Research-oriented tools (e.g., Elicit)
- Writing aids (e.g., Grammarly)

Consider the limitations.

AI tools have limitations that can impact the quality and integrity of your work. Keep these in mind:

- Bias: AI-generated content may reflect biased or discriminatory information from its sources.
- Originality: AI outputs are based on pre-existing materials and are not a substitute for your own creativity.
- Hallucinations: AI may produce false or misleading information that lacks consistency.
- Skill Development: Over-reliance on AI may weaken your independent understanding of course material and key skills.
- Writing Quality: AI writing can be repetitive, vague, or lack critical depth. It's crucial to develop your personal writing style and voice.

Do you want to use AI?

Remember, you are fully responsible for any content created with AI that you submit. This includes all ethical considerations and limitations.

YES

NO

If AI is not required for the assignment, you are not required to use it.

Follow your instructor's guidelines for AI use carefully.

Critically review AI output for accuracy, bias, and relevance.

Acknowledge AI use in the format your instructor requires.

Reference any AI-generated material properly.

Keep records of AI use for transparency and accountability.

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ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR STUDENTS

Accountability

When using AI, it's important to take responsibility for the academic work you produce. This includes:

- Being transparent about the AI tools and sources you've utilised, documenting them clearly if required by your instructor.
- Carefully reviewing AI-generated content for accuracy, relevance, and potential bias to ensure it aligns with your assignment goals.
- Maintaining integrity by using AI as a support tool, not as a replacement for your original ideas and skills.

Ethical Consideration: Demonstrating accountability in your work upholds academic integrity and fosters trust with your instructors and peers.

Bias

When using AI tools, be aware that the data they are trained on may contain biases, which could lead to unfair outcomes. For example:

- Relying on biased AI outputs in your work may unintentionally reinforce stereotypes or discrimination, which could impact academic integrity.
- Using AI with limited cultural perspectives may reduce the diversity of ideas in your assignments, weakening your critical thinking and academic rigor.

Ethical Consideration: Ensure that AI-generated content does not reinforce stereotypes or limit diverse perspectives in your academic work.

Environment

AI tools require significant energy to process data, contributing to environmental issues like greenhouse gas emissions. As a student, you can make ethical choices by:

- Being mindful of the environmental impact when using AI tools, especially those that require large amounts of data processing.
- Opting for more sustainable practices where possible, such as using AI efficiently and only when necessary for your academic work.

Ethical Consideration: Consider the broader environmental impact of using AI for tasks that could be done manually or with fewer resources.

Labour

AI relies on vast amounts of human-generated content, often without compensating the original creators. As a student, it's important to:

- Be aware that using AI-generated content in your work may raise ethical concerns, particularly if that content was created from unpaid or uncredited sources.
- Consider the implications of relying on AI tools for creative tasks, as it may undervalue the work of human creators.

Ethical Consideration: Acknowledge when AI-generated content is used and ensure that your own work honors the contributions of original creators, avoiding plagiarism or uncredited use.

Privacy

AI tools can collect and store personal data, raising serious privacy concerns. As a student, you should:

- Be cautious about sharing personal or sensitive information with AI tools, as this data may be stored or used in unintended ways.
- Understand that AI may retain portions of your data, which could lead to privacy breaches.

Ethical Consideration: When using AI, avoid sharing personal or sensitive information, and be mindful of potential privacy risks involved in AI data collection and usage.

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HOW STUDENTS CAN ADDRESS THE LIMITATIONS OF AI

Bias

The data informing AI tools may contain biased or discriminatory information, which can be reflected in their outputs. To reduce this risk:

- Before using an AI tool, check for a statement from the provider that outlines how they address bias. Leading AI companies like Microsoft, Google, and OpenAI often provide these statements. They should confirm that:
 - Diverse and representative source data was used.
 - Strategies to minimize bias and discrimination are part of the AI tool's design.
- Review AI outputs carefully for biased or discriminatory content. Look for information that focuses on only one demographic or reinforces assumptions and stereotypes.

Originality

AI-generated content is based on pre-existing human material, so its outputs lack true originality and innovation. To maintain academic integrity and creativity:

- Use AI tools as a starting point for brainstorming, but ensure the final work reflects your own critical thinking and original ideas.
- AI can handle routine tasks, but always apply your own creativity, analysis, and judgment to the more meaningful and complex parts of your assignments.
- Your originality and critical thinking are irreplaceable—use AI for support, but ensure your work stands out with your own analysis and creativity.

Hallucinations

AI tools can sometimes generate incorrect, misleading, or entirely fabricated information. To ensure accuracy:

- Always double-check AI-generated content with trusted sources before incorporating it into your work.
- Be cautious, as AI tools may confidently present false information. Rely on reputable sources and cross-check facts when using AI in research or content creation.
- Using AI responsibly means treating it as a starting point, not a final source—stay critical and confirm all claims before you rely on them.

Critical Application

Over-reliance on AI can reduce your ability to fully understand and apply course material on your own. In the long term, this may weaken essential skills. To avoid this:

- Use AI tools as a supplement to your learning, but ensure you grasp the concepts and can complete tasks independently.
- Stay actively engaged in class discussions and activities to reinforce your understanding—don't rely solely on AI for learning.
- Prioritize developing your own critical thinking and problem-solving skills to ensure long-term academic and personal growth.

Writing

AI-generated writing often lacks the depth and coherence needed for academic work. It's important to develop strong foundational writing skills.

- Avoid using AI for reading tasks, as engaging directly with texts helps you learn diverse writing styles, argument structures, and language use.
- Use AI for brainstorming or generating initial prompts, but always check with your instructor before using AI tools, especially in writing-focused courses where such use may not be allowed.
- Write your first drafts independently, using AI tools only for feedback or minor revisions—not for developing or structuring your content, and only when permitted by your instructor.