

**Sample Syllabus Statements on AI and Academic Integrity**  
25-July-2023

The EIU [student code of conduct](#) maintains that “Eastern students observe the highest principles of academic integrity and support a campus environment conducive to scholarship.” Violations of this standard includes, “Conduct in subversion of academic standards, such as cheating on examinations, plagiarism, collusion, misrepresentation, or falsification of data.”

The following list of sample syllabus statements<sup>1</sup> address the use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools and potential impacts on academic integrity. There are just examples of a range of statements from completely prohibited to the open and fluid use of these tools. It is up to each individual faculty member to determine if and how AI can be used by students in their courses, therefore this list provides examples for a range of scenarios.

Regardless of how each faculty member restricts or allows use of these tools, best practice would be to openly acknowledge their existence and engage in a discussion with students as a class and individually to make sure they understand faculty expectations. A syllabus statement is one means to help facilitate this conversation, but not a replacement for that conversation.

In addition, it is recommended that instructors advocate for and advise students to use the [EIU Writing Center](#). While Turnitin and other tools can help identify potential issues with student writing and course submissions, the EIU Writing Center offers trained consults to provide individual conference in person or online, and through the entirety of the writing process from drafts to final submissions.

If you have any questions or concerns or want more information about AI and its potential for teaching and learning, please contact the FDIC at [fdic@eiu.edu](mailto:fdic@eiu.edu).

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**Generic Sample Statements**

**Use prohibited:**

Students are not allowed to use advanced automated tools (artificial intelligence or machine learning tools such as ChatGPT, Grammarly, or Dall-E 2) on assignments in this course. Each student is expected to complete each assignment without substantive assistance from others, including automated tools.

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<sup>1</sup> These statements were written based on a [crowd-sourced list of sample statements](#) curated by [Lance Eaton](#), the University of Delaware [Center for Teaching and Assessment of Learning](#), and research by the [FDIC](#).

*You may also want to acknowledge the AI detection capabilities in Turnitin, if relevant:*

Written work will be submitted through Turnitin in D2L. Turnitin includes an AI detection tool which indicates the amount of qualifying text within the submission that Turnitin's AI writing detection model determines was generated by AI. This information may be used, in addition to other evidence, if there are concerns with academic misconduct.

**Use with permission:**

Students are allowed to use advanced automated tools (artificial intelligence or machine learning tools such as ChatGPT, Grammarly, or Dall-E 2) on assignments in this course if instructor permission is obtained in advance. Unless given permission to use those tools, each student is expected to complete each assignment without substantive assistance from others, including automated tools.

If permission is granted to use advanced automated tools (artificial intelligence or machine learning tools such as ChatGPT, Grammarly, or Dall-E 2), they must be properly documented and credited. Text generated using ChatGPT-3 should include a citation such as: "Chat-GPT-3. (YYYY, Month DD of query). "Text of your prompt."

**Use only with proper acknowledgement:**

Students are allowed to use advanced automated tools (artificial intelligence or machine learning tools such as ChatGPT, Grammarly, or Dall-E 2) on assignments in this course if that use is properly documented and credited. For example, text generated using ChatGPT-3 should include a citation such as: "Chat-GPT-3. (YYYY, Month DD of query). "Text of your prompt."

*You may also want to require students to provide a brief explanation of how they used a particular tool. For example:*

If a tool is used in an assignment, students must also include a brief (2-3 sentences) description of how they used the tool.

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All work submitted in this course must be your own. Contributions from anyone or anything else – including AI sources – must be properly quoted and cited every time they are used. Any text-generating software (such as ChatGPT, Bard, iA Writer, Grammarly, DALL-E, etc.) is not permitted, and it will be treated as plagiarism. Failure to comply with this policy will be considered an academic integrity violation and will be subject to EIU's [academic dishonesty process](#). The [EIU Student Code of Conduct](#) is available from the [Dean of Students](#).

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Use of an AI Generator such as ChatGPT, Bard, iA Writer, Grammarly, DALL-E, etc. is explicitly prohibited unless otherwise noted by the instructor. The information from these tools is generated from previous queries and sources, including published materials. Therefore, using these tools without proper citation constitutes plagiarism. Additionally, be aware that the information derived from these tools is often inaccurate or incomplete. It is imperative that all work submitted should be your own. Any assignment that is found to have been plagiarized or to

have used unauthorized AI tools may receive a zero and / or be reported for [academic dishonesty](#). The [EIU Student Code of Conduct](#) is available from the [Dean of Students](#).

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Recent developments in artificial intelligence (AI), such as ChatGPT, make it important to underscore that the core principle of academic integrity is doing your own original work. Learning can be done individually or cooperatively with others, but we must be active participants in the learning. This is the fundamental reason that academic integrity policies prohibit practices such as cheating on exams, plagiarizing, or paying others to take test or author papers. In all such cases, students are not doing their own work and cannot be learning or demonstrating their learning. EIU does not wish to give credit for students who submit others' work as their own. The submissions lack integrity because the students did not do their own work.

Although AI is relatively new, its use for illicit purposes presents identical dangers to academic integrity. For instance, ChatGPT offers students a new alternative to authoring their own essay and conducting research. However, the outcome is the same – any person who uses it for that purpose sacrifices the opportunity to learn how to write and explore course content on their own. The use of AI, including ChatGPT, Google Bard, Microsoft Bing AI, Grammarly, DALL-E 2, and other AI systems to produce course materials and creative products is a violation of university policies designed to promote learning and measure student learning outcomes fairly. Further, using the product of these resources and passing them on as one's own work is a self-defeating strategy just as any other violation of academic integrity. Students should review the [EIU Student Code of Conduct](#), which is available from the [Dean of Students](#).

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You may use AI programs e.g., ChatGPT to help generate ideas and brainstorm. However, you should note that the material generated by these programs may be inaccurate, incomplete, or otherwise problematic. Beware that use may also stifle your own independent thinking and creativity.

You may not submit any work generated by an AI program as your own. If you include material generated by an AI program, it should be cited like any other reference material (with consideration for the quality of the reference, which may be poor).

Turnitin has an AI detection function which can consider if student work is in whole or in part produced by AI programs. Any plagiarism or other form of cheating will be dealt with under EIU's [academic dishonesty process](#).

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The release of ChatGPT in November 2022 and other AI systems (i.e., Google Bard, Grammarly, DALL-E 2) are among many tools using artificial intelligence. There is a good possibility that using tools like these are going to become an important skill for careers in the not distant future. In the meantime, though, it is going to take a while for society to figure out when using these tools is/is not acceptable.

- Work created by AI tools may not be considered original work and instead, considered automated plagiarism. It is derived from previously created texts from other sources that the models were trained on yet does not cite sources.
- AI models have built-in biases (i.e., they are trained on limited underlying sources; they reproduce, rather than challenge, errors in the sources)
- AI tools have limitations (i.e., they lack critical thinking to evaluate and reflect on criteria; they lack abductive reasoning to make judgments with incomplete information at hand)

Academic integrity is a core principle at EIU, and it is vital that all students uphold this principle-- whether using AI-based tools or otherwise. For my class, a responsible use of AI-based tools in completing coursework or assessments must be done in accordance with the following:

1. You must clearly identify the use of AI-based tools in your work. Any work that utilizes AI-based tools must be clearly marked as such, including the specific tool(s) used. For example, if you use ChatGPT-3, you must cite "ChatGPT-3. (YYYY, Month DD of query). "Text of your query." Generated using OpenAI. <https://chat.openai.com/>"
2. You must be transparent in how you used the AI-based tool, including what work is your original contribution. An AI detector such as Turnitin or GPTZero (<https://gptzero.me/>) may be used to detect AI-driven work.
3. You must ensure your use of AI-based tools does not violate any copyright or intellectual property laws.
4. You must not use AI-based tools to cheat on assessments.
5. You must not use AI-based tools to plagiarize without citation.

Violations of this policy will be dealt with in accordance with EIU's [academic dishonesty process](#).

Using an AI-content generator such as ChatGPT or Grammarly to complete assignment without proper attribution violates academic integrity. By submitting assignments in this class, you pledge to affirm that they are your own work, and you attribute use of any tools and sources.

Learning to use AI responsibly and ethically is an important skill in today's society. Be aware of the limits of conversational, generative AI tools such as ChatGPT or Grammarly.

- Quality of your prompts: The quality of its output directly correlates to the quality of your input. Master "prompt engineering" by refining your prompts in order to get good outcomes.
- Fact-check all of the AI outputs. Assume it is wrong unless you cross-check the claims with reliable sources. The currently AI models will confidently reassert factual errors. You will be responsible for any errors or omissions.
- Full disclosure: Like any other tool, the use of AI should be acknowledged. At the end of your assignment, write a short paragraph to explain which AI tool and how you used it, if applicable. Include the prompts you used to get the results. Failure to do so is in violation of academic integrity policies.

Proper uses of AI in this course include:

- Fine tuning research questions
- Draft outlines of papers or projects
- Brainstorm and fine tune your ideas
- Check grammar, rigor, and writing style
- Consolidate and organize notes.