

Syllabus Statements Concerning AI Use in Student Work

Northern Michigan University is committed to addressing the emergence of generative artificial intelligence (AI) with a blend of academic thoroughness, intellectual honesty, and high educational standards. NMU acknowledges the complexity generative AI brings to maintaining academic honesty, while also viewing it as a vibrant opportunity to provide cutting-edge education in preparation for future learning and employment landscapes. It is up to each instructor to decide how much, if at all, generative AI should be used in their course, and if allowed, what form that usage should take.

The Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) has provided many sample syllabus statements for instructor use. These are listed by category below. Each category represents a different level of acceptance regarding student use of AI in a course, from *not at all* to *generally permitted* (with citation). Furthermore, several sample statements have been added to each category, each one representing a different emphasis for the instructor's decision regarding AI usage. You may also include a link to the NMU Student Handbook located here: <https://nmu.edu/policies/1070>. This handbook includes NMU's policies regarding Academic Dishonesty.

Instructors should feel free to use and/or change any of the following statements or create their own. These are provided only as examples and templates for further revision.

I. Category 1: Use of Generative AI NOT Permitted

Statement 1: Emphasizing Strict Prohibition of AI Tools

AI writing aids such as ChatGPT are categorically not permitted at any stage of coursework in this class. Use of these tools will be treated as academic dishonesty, constituting a clear violation of NMU's [Academic Dishonesty Policy](#).

Statement 2: Focusing on Skill Development and Personal Effort

AI-generated submissions are not allowed in this course and will be treated as plagiarism. This course aims to foster your writing, analytical, and critical thinking skills—key competencies that will give you an edge in a competitive workplace. As such, all writing assignments should be exclusively your own.

Statement 3: Highlighting Academic Integrity and Individual Work

All submissions, including drafts, low-stakes writing, and final versions, must be your original work. Having someone else or an AI tool like ChatGPT do any part of your assignment is deemed a breach of academic integrity. This applies even to situations where you might be working in groups. Violation of this policy will be treated as plagiarism.

II. Category 2: Use of Generative AI Permitted Under Some Circumstances or With Instructor Permission

Statement 1: Upholding Academic Honesty and Personal Creativity

I strongly advocate for academic honesty and value the unique contributions each student brings to their work. AI writing tools like ChatGPT are considered supplementary aids and should not replace your original ideas and research. Usage of AI tools for assignments must be pre-approved to ensure academic honesty. Unauthorized use can impact your academic standing. It is essential to clearly distinguish between your original work and the content generated by AI in any submissions. Violating these guidelines equates to infringing NMU's [Academic Dishonesty Policy](#).

Statement 2: Promoting Conscious Use of AI and Appropriate Citation

Throughout the course, there will be opportunities to utilize AI tools such as ChatGPT to enrich your learning. Details about their responsible use and accurate attribution will be provided. If you incorporate AI tools into your assignments, use them judiciously and provide correct citation. Your work and AI-generated content should be distinguishable, with the latter not exceeding xx% of your total submission. Failure to adhere to these instructions may lead to academic integrity violations and consequent disciplinary action as per NMU's [Academic Dishonesty Policy](#). (define what xx is)

Statement 3: Encouraging Constructive Communication and Enhanced Learning

Our goal is to establish a mutual trust-based learning environment that encourages the open exchange of ideas and individual growth. AI tools like ChatGPT, when used in accordance with the parameters outlined within the assignment, can be a part of this educational journey. Should there be any ambiguities regarding the use of AI tools in your assignments, don't hesitate to talk to me before submitting your work. Maintaining an intellectually honest and fair environment is a collective responsibility. Let's collaboratively build a supportive and accountable learning atmosphere.

III. Category 3: Use of Generative AI Generally Permitted (Within Guidelines)

Statement 1: Welcoming AI Tools with Proper Citation

We encourage the use of AI writing aids such as ChatGPT in this class, with the stipulation that you clearly acknowledge their usage. Guidance on citing AI usage in your writing will be provided. For instance, you could state, "Parts of this text were initially drafted with OpenAI's GPT-3 model, which I then reviewed and revised for this submission."

Statement 2: Using AI for Brainstorming and Revision with Attribution

Students are permitted to use AI tools, including ChatGPT, for brainstorming or revising assignments, provided the generated content is properly attributed. For example, any text produced by the AI tool should appear in a different colored font, quoted, or cited in-text. Unauthorized or improperly attributed use of AI tools is considered academic dishonesty and a breach of proper student conduct.

Statement 3: Ensuring Transparency and Academic Integrity with AI Usage

AI tools like ChatGPT can be used to assist with tasks such as preparing assignments and refining your work. However, it's essential that students clearly identify AI-generated content in their submissions and explain how the AI tools contributed to their work process and final product. Transparency about the use of AI tools in your work is crucial for maintaining academic honesty and the intellectual fairness of a productive learning environment.