Artificial Intelligence Policy for Engineering and Computing

Generative AI refers to digital tools that are capable of producing content, such as text, codes, images, etc. based on instructions prompted by the users. These tools can learn from massive amounts of data that is spread across the internet and apply highly evolved algorithms to produce outputs that resemble those created by humans. Their widespread applications across multiple domains have led various professional organizations to adopt them to increase efficiency in terms of time and effort. In academic settings, their use has raised substantial concerns surrounding ethical use, impact on building critical skills and authentic assessment of student work.

CCA's Guidelines state that the use of AI tools to complete academic work is considered cheating (https://ccaurora.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/CCA-Guidelines-06.06.2023.pdf). Therefore, all deliverables submitted for grading or assessment must be prepared by students on their own. This is highly desirable as well since all programs and courses have their own set of learning outcomes, and developing strong competencies in these areas is essential in preparation for future pathways.

However, with AI becoming more ubiquitous and integrated with platforms used in different courses, the department has identified some acceptable ways in which students may use these tools, if they follow the explicit directions and constraints set by their course instructors. Here are some general department policies on the use of AI:

1. Students will be responsible for any content they submit for grading, regardless of the use of AI.
2. Students may use AI for tasks such as, searching information on topics, checking grammar and style, checking citations, etc. Students may not use AI for directly create writing assignments (textual answers, reports, discussion posts, etc.) or solving numerical problems.
3. Students must work with their instructors to learn about the appropriate use of AI in their courses. Where allowed, students must clearly cite any AI-generated material that may have informed their final work and follow the citation convention established by their instructors.
4. Students must work with their instructors to obtain clarity on what would be considered inappropriate use of AI in their courses. Submitting AI-generated work without proper acknowledgement or transformation documentation may result in penalty or even obtaining a Zero in an assignment, as decided by the instructor.
5. Instructors may make use of different AI detection techniques in their courses and use the results to guide their action.