

Guidance on use of Generative AI in OHR PhD Graduate Programs

Coursework

Graduate level work is designed to help develop student's critical thinking skills and their ability to develop new scientific insights. Artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning or other similar tools may only be used as defined by the course director and/or course syllabus. Before using generative AI, please consult with the course director.

- Students should always confirm with instructors that they are adhering to the appropriate and correct guidelines for a particular course.
- Course Directors must be clear about their expectations including if they are permitting use of AI tools for specific assignment/s for the course, or not at all and if allowing the use how it should be documented.

Laboratory Research

Generative AI and or machine learning may be used in the research process following the permission of and/or under the guidance of the principal investigator (PI). Any use should be appropriately documented in the methods section. Students must independently verify AI-generated code, citations, analyses, images, and scientific claims and remain accountable for all outputs.

Comprehensive and Final Examinations

The comprehensive and final examinations are important milestones in the journey to becoming an independent scientist. They demonstrate the student's ability to understand and synthesize their results in the context of the scientific literature and to communicate these results. They allow students and faculty to assess individual development and understand where strengths and weaknesses lie. The documents submitted for the comprehensive exam (F31 and presentation) and the final examination (dissertation and presentation) should be the students own work and demonstrate their use of critical thinking to synthesize the current literature, analyze data, interpret results and master scientific writing. **Therefore, generative AI should not be used.** If gen AI has been used during the research process this should be documented. A student may use tools such MS word proofing skills and Biorender to create images. Use of other programs must be approved by the PI and the program director. Students are strongly encouraged to save multiple versions of their work over time.

Unauthorized Use of Gen AI

Unauthorized use of gen AI is considered [academic misconduct](#).

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