eTutoring Artificial Intelligence/Large Language Model (AI/LLM) Policy

For the purposes of this policy, AI and LLM are used somewhat interchangeably to describe any app, such as ChatGPT, CoPilot, or Perplexity, that uses the web and/or uploaded data to respond to user inquiries (often called "prompts") with realistic, human-like answers.

Rules for eTutors

1. eTutors may not submit student text or problems, <u>in part or in whole</u>, to AI/LLMs.
2. If AI/LLM ideas or text are included in a response to a student, [the tutor MUST cite the LLM](#).
3. Writing eTutors may not ask LLMs to give them "better" examples or revise a student's thesis/paragraphs/topic/sentences.
4. Live eTutors may not ask AI to solve the student's problem for them.

Rationale:

- Because input may be retained and used in undisclosed ways for future LLM training, posting student text or problems to an LLM without their permission is a violation of student privacy.
- If the student wants to seek LLM help for their homework/papers, they may do so themselves.
- If students must cite LLMs, then so should we. This will also prevent the student from unwittingly using unattributed & undisclosed LLM quotations included in the tutor's response.
- The rule pertaining to Writing eTutors comes from a very old eTutoring policy about providing examples. Namely, writing tutors are taught to demonstrate effective theses in subjects *other than the one covered in the student's essay*. Providing on-topic thesis examples gives students an untraceable way to plagiarize, as the tutor's offered thesis may be copied wholesale by the student, with no one being the wiser.
- All four rules empower students to decide how, when, and whether they engage with AI/LLMs.

A few examples of acceptable LLM usage for writing tutors:

- To create off-topic thesis examples or examples of grammatical rules and corrections
- To improve the tone of a passage in the tutor's opening letter
- To find the proper term for a student's error or fallacy

A few examples of acceptable LLM usage for live tutors

- To explain a concept you're having trouble putting into words or demonstrating.
- To provide examples similar to the student's problem

Cautions to Consider*

When using LLMs, you must **maintain rigorous oversight** to help mitigate potential risks.

- **Accuracy and Reliability**: LLMs may generate incorrect or misleading information, including false narratives or events, and fake sources.

- **Bias**: LLMs sometimes perpetuate biases such as: historical context, age, disability, gender, racial/ethnic identity, sexual orientation, & socioeconomic status.

- **Depth and Nuance**: LLMs may oversimplify concepts or miss subtle distinctions that are important for a thorough understanding of a subject.

- **Plagiarism and Originality**: LLMs sometimes plagiarize existing materials without proper citation.

Resources for Prompt Engineering

- University of Michigan's short guide to [prompt engineering literacy](#)
- [Georgetown University Library's guide](#), with examples of actual prompts.
- [OpenAI/ChatGPT's Prompt Engineering Guide](#)
- A very detailed guide by [PromptAI](#)

Other Considerations

MIT's article about [LLMs' environmental impact](#)
This [Vox article on the potential philosophical problems with LLMs](#)

* This section adapted from SBCTC OER Open Textbook Project by Boyoung Chae
(https://docs.google.com/document/d/1o9PtO6CRs9E1q3sgMgmjAT0r51QvJhuz1s3sdTosSvo/edit?usp=sharing)