

Academic Standards for Artificial Intelligence (AI)

With the rise of AI writing assistants, students must ensure that they use this new technology ethically and honestly. Generative AI tools, if used prudently, can help students develop their writing process and critical thinking. However, using AI to generate writing or compositions without substantial original contribution from the student is not acceptable. For further details on acceptable AI usage in academic writing, please review the chart below.

USD students have access to [Copilot](#); however, not all USD Online programs permit the use of AI. Please consult your student handbook to confirm if AI usage is acceptable in your program.

ACCEPTABLE AI Ideation Assistance

AI can be used to augment the student learning process, not replace it. Some ethical uses of AI include:

- Facilitating brainstorming
- Exploring new topics/ideas with AI-assisted writing
- Examining potential counterarguments/opposing points of view
- Reseeing writing by taking suggestions from AI assistants to make improvements

ACCEPTABLE, WITH ATTRIBUTION AI Writing Assistance

AI can be used to produce portions of student writing, but all generated text must be attributed. Some ethical uses of AI include:

- Avoiding generating large chunks of text with little or no authorial input
- Reviewing all AI-generated ideas and text for accuracy
- Attributing all AI-generated content included in student writing. Please consult [APA](#) guidelines to cite generative AI tools

NOT ACCEPTABLE AI Generated Content

AI should not be used to replace the student writing process. Some unethical uses of AI include:

- Generating portions of student writing without acknowledgment or attribution
- Offloading the recursive writing process or other learning processes
- Uncritically adopting ideas or quotes. All AI tools and techniques should be thoroughly analyzed before implementation

This document is adapted from Academic Standards of AI, written by Marc Watkins and Dr. Chad Russell of the University of Mississippi's Department of Writing and Rhetoric ([CC-BY SA 4.0](#)).