

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 strengthen their writing and critical thinking skills. However, using AI to generate writing without substantial original contributions is not acceptable. Please review the chart below for details on acceptable AI usage in academic writing.

Important Note: All USD students can log into [Copilot](#) with their USD One credentials; 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 and ideas with AI-assisted writing
- Examining potential counterarguments and 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 writing without acknowledgment or attribution
- Offloading the recursive writing process or other learning processes
- Uncritically adopting AI-generated ideas or quotes
- Providing any information that's confidential or private to generative AI tools

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](#)).