Navajo Technical University Policy on Student Use of Artificial Intelligence Technology

Purpose

This policy serves to define guidelines and expectations surrounding the responsible and ethical use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools by students. By fostering a culture of responsible AI use, the policy seeks to enhance learning experiences, promote innovation, and prepare students for ethical engagement with advanced technologies in their academic and future professional endeavors.

Navajo Technical University seeks to deliver a high-quality education to all of its students. This education consists not only of the acquisition of knowledge, but also the development of wisdom, understanding, and an appreciation for the value of learning. NTU endeavors to embrace every available tool that will aid in this educational journey. While artificial intelligence (AI) technology provides new opportunities, it also exposes students to risks that threaten to undermine academic growth and development.

When students use AI tools, such as ChatGPT to replace personal engagement with their coursework, it contradicts the educational mission of the University and undermines the purpose of education itself. Artificial intelligence and related technologies do hold promise for providing knowledge in service to others and accelerating the discovery of new knowledge. However, such technology poses new challenges to pedagogy and integrity. Within the context of the mission, vision, and philosophy of the University, the authority to determine the appropriate use and deployment of these new technologies rests with the faculty.

To promote and assess student learning in an introductory writing course, for example, an instructor may choose to prohibit or strictly manage the use of AI technologies. Alternatively, in other types of courses, an instructor might encourage the use of these technologies as part of a creative process. In all cases, the instructor's responsibility is to communicate to students the expectations for their course. It is the responsibility of students to conduct themselves accordingly, and never to represent work they did not produce as their own, including work generated or substantively modified by AI technology.

Absent a clear statement from the course instructor, the use of AI will be treated as assistance from another person. In particular, using AI tools to substantially complete an assignment or exam (e.g. by entering exam questions or assignment prompts) is not permitted, would be considered unethical, and would be treated similarly to plagiarism. Students must acknowledge the use of generative AI and must always disclose such assistance when in doubt.

In cases where students use generative AI in a way that violates an instructor's stated policy, or where a student uses generative AI in a way not expressly permitted by the faculty member, the procedures and remedies outlined in the Student Handbook, as administered by the Office of Student Services, will be used to resolve the matter.

Individual course instructors are free to set their policies regulating the use of generative AI tools in their courses, including allowing or disallowing some or all uses of such tools. Course instructors will set such policies in their course syllabi and communicate such policies to their students. Students who are unsure of policies regarding generative AI tools are encouraged to ask their instructors for clarification.

Example Syllabus Statements

1. *AI is Freely Allowed*

    Students are allowed to use advanced automated tools (artificial intelligence or machine learning tools, such as ChatGPT) on assignments in this course; no special documentation or citation is required.

2. *AI is Allowed with Limitations*

    While AI tools can be useful for completing assignments and detecting plagiarism, their use must be responsible and ethical. This course sets the following guidelines for what not to do when using AI in your assignments:

    - *Do not rely solely on AI tools to complete assignments.* It is important to understand the material and complete assignments on your own, using AI tools as a supplement rather than a replacement for your own work.
    - *Do not use AI tools to plagiarize.* Using AI to generate or modify content to evade plagiarism detection is unethical, and violates academic integrity.
    - *Do not assume that AI responses are correct.* It has been noted that AI can generate fake results.

    If you are in doubt about whether a generative AI source (or any source) is permitted aid in the context of a particular assignment, talk with your instructor.

3. *AI is Allowed with Limitations*

    Intellectual honesty is vital to an academic community and for fair evaluation of your work. All work submitted in this course must be your own, completed in accordance with the University's academic regulations. Use of AI tools, including ChatGPT, is permitted in this course. However, you are encouraged to use AI tools ONLY to help brainstorm assignments or projects or to revise existing work you have written. It is solely your

responsibility to make all submitted work your own, maintain academic integrity, and avoid any type of plagiarism. Be aware that the accuracy or quality of AI generated content may not meet the standards of this course, even if you only incorporate such content partially and after substantial paraphrasing, modification or editing. Also keep in mind that AI generated content may not provide appropriate or clear attribution to the authors of the original sources, while most written assignments in this course require you to find and incorporate relevant peer-reviewed scholarly publications. Finally, your instructor will use various plagiarism checking tools in evaluating your work if an ethical breach is suspected, including screening for AI-generated content, and will impose consequences accordingly. If you are in doubt about whether an AI source is permitted in the context of a particular assignment, please talk with your instructor.

4. AI is Prohibited

Because writing, analytical, and thinking skills are important learning outcomes of this course, all writing assignments must be prepared by the student. Developing strong competencies in these areas will prepare you for a competitive workplace and future educational opportunities. For that reason, AI-generated submissions are not permitted in this course, and will be treated as plagiarism.