

D'Artagnan AI: Students build first- of-its-kind model focused on helping college students and professors

By David Hamilton

College life can be a lot to handle — to make it easier, a group of Xavier entrepreneurship students built a first-of-its-kind generative AI tool designed specifically to help their peers and professors.

This past semester, students created what they believe is the first language-model designed to help students and faculty use generative AI in an ethical and academically honest way, naming the chatbot after University mascot D'Artagnan.

Visitors to [dartagnanai.com \(https://www.dartagnanai.com/\)](https://www.dartagnanai.com/) can ask any question they might have about using AI in college and, chances are, “D'Artagnan” will have an answer. (You can read two real queries and the bot's responses at the end of this story.)

Assistant Professor of Management and Entrepreneurship Jarrod Humphrey, who oversaw the project through his Entrepreneurial and Innovation Mindset course in the Williams College of Business, said the end result actually came as a bit of a surprise.

“We didn't start this semester saying, ‘We're developing an AI tool,’” Humphrey said. “I just said, ‘Hey, we have a problem here.’”



Jarrod Humphrey, Ph.D.

That problem centered on academic integrity.

Humphrey said he noticed media outlets focused heavily on AI's potential negative impacts on college campuses, creating a narrative that students' relationship with chatbots revolved primarily around rampant cheating.

"But my experience is, that's not really the case; that doesn't paint the full picture," Humphrey said. "We have a group of faculty who want to use [AI] themselves ... but want their students to use it responsibly. We also have students who want other students to use it responsibly and not cheat or undermine the academic system. That's a classic problem that entrepreneurial people could solve."

Humphrey challenged his students to collectively conduct hundreds of interviews with their peers and professors to identify the field's most pressing problems and devise a solution.

Rather than something such as developing a handbook or training course on the ethical use of AI, the students decided the best solution was to build a tool of their own that can help people navigate using AI

responsibly. Still only a prototype, their tool has received thousands of queries already, Humphrey said.

The project marked a new endeavor for most students, including rising junior Jack Micucci, a marketing and entrepreneurship double-major who noted the iterative process of training the model.

“The first test drive of the model in class wasn't the most refined, so it was interesting to see, as we developed it more and more, just how much more accurate and how much better it was getting at doing the jobs that we were asking it to do,” Micucci said. “It was really cool to just see and very insightful to see, especially to get a little bit more knowledge of how other models might be getting trained, just everything that went into it and how it learned and got better with each and every version.”



Jack Micucci

Micucci and his classmates trained D'Artagnan on 2 million words, taken from publicly available resources on ethical AI use by 200 of America's top universities.

The experience in the classroom translated to a real-world opportunity for Micucci, who is currently interning with a Cincinnati-

“Cincinnati is a unique spot for tech startups and trying to be innovative with technology and trying to do new stuff, and I think Professor Humphrey did a wonderful job bringing that into the classroom,” Micucci said. “I’m super appreciative of that and how he was able to create a classroom environment that really sparks creativity and innovation.”

“I have immersed myself and leaned into the AI movement here at Xavier ... and I would say our D'Artagnan project puts us out in front of peer institutions,” Humphrey said.

