

A Range of Possible AI Policies for Discussion

Only to inspire discussion – not designed to be a menu

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1. Zero Tolerance Policy (Complete Prohibition)

- **The Rule:** The use of any generative AI tools (like ChatGPT, Gemini, DALL-E, etc.) is strictly prohibited for any and all course-related work. This includes brainstorming, outlining, drafting, editing, and generating ideas.
- **Rationale:** This policy prioritizes the development of foundational skills, original thought, and individual authorial voice without external influence. It maintains a traditional definition of academic integrity.
- **In Practice:** Submitting any work created in whole or in part with generative AI would be considered a violation of the academic honor code, equivalent to plagiarism.

2. Non-Generative Tools Only Policy (Prohibition on Generation of Content)

- **The Rule:** The use of *generative AI* for creating content is forbidden. However, the use of other AI-powered tools for specific, approved tasks is permitted (e.g., Grammarly for grammar and spelling, Zotero for citation management, transcription software for interviews).
- **Rationale:** Differentiates between AI that generates novel content and AI that assists with the technical mechanics of writing and research.
- **In Practice:** Students can use tools that refine their own work but cannot use tools that create the work for them. The line between these would need to be clearly defined.

3. "Process-Based" Policy (Restricted to Specific Stages)

- **The Rule:** AI use is permitted for **pre-writing tasks only**. This includes **brainstorming** potential topics, generating **initial research questions**, or creating a basic outline. All subsequent work—including drafting, analysis, and final writing—must be done without AI assistance.
- **Rationale:** Views AI as a potential **aid for overcoming "writer's block" or exploring ideas**, but reserves the **core intellectual work of argumentation and writing for the student**.
- **In Practice:** Students could use AI to get started but would need to complete the substantive part of the assignment independently. They might be required to submit their initial AI-assisted brainstorming notes.

4. "Use with Critical Reflection" Policy (Metacognition Focused)

- **The Rule:** Students may use generative AI, but for any assignment where it is used, they must also submit a short reflection. This reflection would detail how they used the tool, analyze the quality of its output, and critique its strengths and weaknesses in relation to the task.
- **Rationale:** Makes AI itself an object of study. The goal is not just to complete the assignment but to develop critical AI literacy and think deeply about the tool's impact on their own learning and research process.
- **In Practice:** A paper might be accompanied by a 300-word statement explaining, "I used Gemini to challenge my initial thesis. It provided three counterarguments, two of which were superficial, but one led me to refine my claim by considering..."

5. "Use with Citation" Policy (Transparency is Key)

- **The Rule:** Students are permitted to use generative AI for various aspects of their work, provided they **explicitly and accurately cite every instance of use**.
- **Rationale:** Treats AI as a new type of source or tool that must be acknowledged. This policy focuses on transparency and honesty rather than prohibition, teaching students how to properly credit AI's contribution.
- **In Practice:** A student might include a footnote, endnote, or a dedicated "AI Usage Statement" detailing which tool they used, what prompts they provided, and which specific parts of their work were generated or significantly revised by the AI.

6. Open Policy (AI as a Collaborative Partner)

- **The Rule:** Students are free to use AI tools as they see fit throughout their entire workflow, from ideation to final polishing.
- **Rationale:** Embraces AI as a standard part of the modern toolkit for knowledge work. This policy prioritizes the final product and holds the **student fully responsible for its quality, accuracy, and integrity, regardless of how it was produced**.
- **In Practice:** There are no restrictions, but the student's grade is based on the quality of the submitted work. The student is accountable for any errors, biases, or "hallucinations" generated by the AI.

7. "AI-Mandatory" Policy (Skill-Building Focused)

- **The Rule:** At least one assignment or component of the course *requires* the use of generative AI for a specific purpose.
- **Rationale:** Actively teaches students the skills necessary to use AI effectively and ethically. It assumes that AI literacy is a crucial competency that must be explicitly taught and practiced.
- **In Practice:** An assignment might ask students to have an AI model take on a specific philosophical persona (e.g., "Act as Aristotle and critique this argument") and then write a paper analyzing and responding to the AI's output.