



The Psychology Department's Umbrella Policy on the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools

When taking a **psychology course**, study **the syllabus!** If it contains a policy on the use of generative AI tools, then abide by that policy. In the absence of a course policy, abide by **the umbrella policy herein**. In addition, carefully attend to any **announcements** by the instructor, as they may supplement or supersede this policy for the purposes of that specific course.

When working under the supervision of psychology faculty **outside of coursework** (e.g., when working with a professor on research), follow their instructions concerning the use of generative AI tools. In the absence of specific instructions, abide by the umbrella policy below.

To maximize your own learning, and to reduce the chance of academic integrity violations, **we recommend that you do not use generative AI tools** in your psychology coursework or when working under our supervision. **Discuss with your instructor or supervisor** any intent to use AI tools in any aspect of your work in your courses (prior to turning in any assignment). In this way, you and your instructor or supervisor can weigh together the benefits and risks of using an AI tool, and the appropriate uses and limits on the uses of such tools.

The use of AI tools in your work on academic assignments raises several questions. One such question is whether you have used the AI tool with academic integrity by appropriately citing and referencing all material that you obtained from it, just as you would with any other source. This means giving credit not only to the AI tool as a source but also to the sources the AI tool may have been exploiting. Another question is whether you have relied on the AI tool to improve your academic achievement or, alternatively, whether you have relied on it excessively and thus compromised your achievement. A related question is whether you have relied on the AI tool to the point where the work you turned in stops being a sufficiently valid assessment of your learning. Finally, AI tools can produce information that is irrelevant, invalid, and biased.

If you reject our recommendation and decide to use an AI tool anyway, **then you must cite and reference the AI tool whenever you use material obtained**

from it, just as you would with any other source you used in your work. Importantly, you must always make it clear exactly what aspects or parts of your assignment drew on material from the AI tool. If you paste material generated by the AI tool, then you must **quote, cite, and reference** it. If you paraphrase such material, then you must **cite and reference** it. Any failure to credit a source, including an AI tool, would be plagiarism and a violation of the college's academic integrity policies. Furthermore, **when an AI tool itself reproduces the ideas of others** with or without properly crediting them, it is **your responsibility** that the ideas' **original sources** receive due credit.

If using AI tools in your research, know that, at present, these tools may "hallucinate" references, cite the wrong sources, and misidentify authors.

Additionally, **the excessive use of any AI tool on an academic assignment may compromise the assignment's validity as an assessment** of your learning. Your instructor may deem compromised any assignment that relies on an AI tool for its **key ideas** or for a **substantial proportion** of its text. When an assignment has been thus compromised, the instructor may adjust its grade to reflect the over-reliance on AI tools. Again, it is best to know your instructor or supervisor's specific policies and to **discuss with your instructor or supervisor any intent** to use an AI tool prior to using it.

To summarize, we recommend that you do the work autonomously, without the use of AI tools; however, if you are considering using AI tools, then you should:

- know your instructor or supervisor's policies;
- discuss with your instructor or supervisor well ahead of time any intent to use AI tools;
- credit everything you obtained from an AI tool;
- credit the original sources of ideas reproduced by the AI tool;
- use material obtained from the AI tool sparingly, according to limits agreed upon between you and your instructor or supervisor; and
- not rely on any AI tool for key ideas.

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