

BYU Academic Vice President's Office

25 September 2023

Subject: Academic Use of Artificial Intelligence at BYU

Academic use of artificial intelligence (AI) at Brigham Young University should be consistent with the principles of the [Honor Code](#) and the [Academic Honesty Policy](#). Appropriate use and limitations of AI in specific disciplines may be defined by the related college or department, and should be consistent with disciplinary norms while following the higher expectations in these BYU policies. In classes where use of AI is of particular concern, faculty are encouraged to describe expectations in the course syllabus.

FAQs

This statement addresses academic use of AI, but what about the use of AI in the business operations of the university?

A university task force has been created to recommend policy for the safe and responsible use of AI in university business settings, including the operation of academic units. One concern is avoiding infusion of university data into external systems, and business and academic uses should be consistent with the [Information Use, Privacy, and Security Policy](#).

Why not completely ban the use of AI?

There are many cases where the use of generative AI should be limited or forbidden. In other cases, students will benefit from being taught the safe, ethical, productive, and moral use of AI to help them in their lives and future careers.

Why leave the creation of specific guidelines to individual academic units and faculty?

AI is quickly changing, and generative AI capabilities are as diverse as writing text, composing music, creating images, and generating software code. People closest to the discipline are best suited to establish specific guidelines that are consistent with disciplinary norms while also applying the higher-level principles of the Honor Code and Academic Honesty Policy.

How does this statement apply to scholarship?

In addition to coursework, “Academic use” includes research and creative works. It also includes theses, dissertations, publications, presentations, exhibitions, performances, and other academic work.

What about faculty use of AI?

The principles in the Honor Code and Academic Honesty Policy are relevant to faculty and students. In addition to these principles, faculty will often have professional guidelines specific to their disciplines.