



# Generative AI Guide for Students

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# Information for Students on Generative AI use at Nipissing University

## What is Generative AI?

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a general term to describe the use of computer hardware, software algorithms, and existing data to make decisions, discover patterns, and/or perform some sort of action.

Generative AI is a form of AI that is “pre-trained” using complex algorithms to identify patterns and structures within existing data (such as large volumes of text) to generate, in response to a prompt or question, new and original data/text. Types of generative AI include but are not limited to:

- ChatGPT, Google Bard, Microsoft Bing Chat, Jasper.ai, Claude, ChatSonic, and Perplexity. These are based in the field of Natural Language Processing and use an understanding of the structure, grammar, and meaning of words to “understand and comprehend” language. These Natural Language Processing tools generate human-like language in response to questions or prompts.
- DALL-E, Imagen, Dream ,Craiyon, Midjourney, and others use Language and Image-based Processing algorithms to generate images based on text-based prompts.
- MuseNet, MusicLM, etc, generate music from text and other inputs.

New AI applications are emerging rapidly which can create original text, images, music, mathematical computations, computer code, etc, with increasing capability and sophistication. Generative AI use in some fields and employment sectors is already widespread, and many students will need to learn how and when to use them appropriately and ethically.

## Can students use Generative AI?

It depends. Some instructors may allow you to use generative AI (or allow you to use it only in certain situations) and others may not.

For example, some instructors may allow you to use generative AI to whatever extent you find helpful; others might permit it only in the initial stages of brainstorming or in outlining a project or paper. Other instructors may not permit any amount of generative AI use on course work submitted for evaluation.

Therefore, it is important that you should not assume that AI tools are permitted unless the instructor of your course specifically states when and how these tools are permitted. If you are unsure, it is your responsibility to check your course syllabus and clarify AI use expectations with your instructor.

**If you are permitted to use generative AI in your course, and you choose to do so, it is important that you cite the tools you use.**

Importantly, students are reminded that Nipissing University's policy on Academic Integrity defines plagiarism as “submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that

particular course when, in fact, it is not.” A student who uses AI technology to complete coursework for evaluation, *without acknowledging its use*, will have committed academic misconduct as defined in Nipissing’s Academic Integrity Policy (<https://academiccalendar.nipissingu.ca/Catalog/ViewCatalog.aspx?pageid=viewcatalog&catalogid=10&chapterid=754&topicgroupid=3691&loadusercredits=False>)

## How should students cite Generative AI use?

It is essential that you are always transparent about your use of AI tools. Style guides such as APA and MLA have developed citation criteria to acknowledge all functional uses of AI tools. Ask your instructor the preferred format for citing AI technologies as the field is rapidly evolving. Citation requirements may vary greatly from instructor to instructor and from discipline to discipline. The following links may help students understand how to cite Generative AI according to different styles/authorities:

APA:<https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/how-to-cite-chatgpt>

MLA:<https://style.mla.org/citing-generative-ai/>

Chicago Manual of Style:

<https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/qanda/data/faq/topics/Documentation/faq0422.html>

## Are there issues students need to be aware of?

There are several important concerns that students need to know:

- Text and content created by generative AI may be incorrect and reproduce the underlying biases in the source material it was trained on. Students must critically review the output of these tools and cross-reference the information provided with reputable sources.
- Be aware that AI tools sometimes go ‘down’ or offline, so it is important to plan ahead if you use them.
- Be aware that most AI tools claim rights to any content you upload to them, and therefore you should not upload confidential, sensitive, or information that does not belong to you. Additionally, the terms of use for generative AI tools may change (frequently) without notice.

## What if students have other questions about Generative AI use?

Students should always speak first with their instructor with regards to information and guidance about the use of Generative AI in their coursework. Understanding that this field is rapidly emerging and evolving and students and instructors alike are learning how to use these new technologies, instructors are still the best positioned to explain to students how AI can be appropriately used within their specific course, discipline, or profession.





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