**Context on the use of Artificial Intelligence at USM**

It is crucial to respect the diverse aspects of the fields of study and the viewpoints and priorities of our faculty, researchers, administrators, students, and the broader community impacted by the University of Southern Mississippi. While some courses and fields can utilize artificial intelligence as a meaningful tool, it is essential to consider that, like any other tool, it cannot be used for every field of educational work and can likewise be misused or used in a way that does not further meaningful learning, development, and engagement within some fields. The university values offering student experiences that demonstrate academic rigor, creativity, original research, and other aspects that are appropriate to each field, while ensuring aspects of shared governance, accountability, and academic freedom in regard to the work of the colleges, faculty, and the core of instruction. **Instructors are encouraged to guide discussions with students about the ethical use within the discipline and course perspective and to highlight the varied uses across courses at USM.**

Over the past three semesters, the reported academic integrity violations have increased significantly due to unauthorized use and misuse of artificial intelligence, highlighting the challenges in artificial intelligence applications.  One of its notable challenges lies in the sourcing and attribution of information. Uncited or improperly attributed material utilized by artificial intelligence algorithms not only undermines academic integrity but also raises ethical concerns regarding the accuracy, creativity, and reliability of generated content, requiring courses to have a defined policy related to not only on the permissiveness of using artificial intelligence but, if permitted, stating how it will be cited when used to ensure the proper maintenance of academic integrity. Further challenges arise through hallucinations and the use of unreliable sources.

Given the nature of discussions and lack thereof between programs about the ethical use, access, and engagement with artificial intelligence, this addendum to the syllabus requirement is added to use as a preface to the existing options for artificial intelligence (those being the statements of selecting a level of usage- full usage, limited or outlines usage, and no usage that are existent at this time). By including this preface to the individual course selection, the university will have a universal statement on artificial intelligence in each syllabus, ensuring that this is communicated across all fields to all students. This underscores the importance of each individual faculty member’s role in examining the policy as it is made in each course, and how this process may be problematic in certain creative endeavors.

**Artificial Intelligence Usage Policy for Instruction - Spring 2024**

Policy as of April 28, 2024:

In navigating the complex landscape of artificial intelligence in academia, it is crucial to respect the diverse aspects of the fields of study and the viewpoints and priorities of our faculty, researchers, administrators, students, and the broader community impacted by the University of Southern Mississippi. This policy seeks to accommodate the spectrum of realities specific to field-based needs and attitudes toward AI as different disciplines, in expressing their goals of creativity, analysis, data examination, and more, may range from enthusiastic adoption to cautious exploration to outright prohibition and the realities of its current origins and structures, by using course-specific policies that reflect each field's unique needs and values. While some courses can utilize artificial intelligence as a meaningful tool, it is essential to consider that, like any other tool, it cannot be used for every field of educational work and can likewise be misused or used in a way that does not further meaningful learning, development, and engagement with some fields. Further, while artificial intelligence presents some opportunities for innovation and efficiency in academia, one of its notable challenges lies in the sourcing and attribution of information. Uncited or improperly attributed material utilized by artificial intelligence algorithms not only undermines academic integrity but also raises ethical concerns regarding the accuracy, creativity, and reliability of generated content, requiring courses to have a defined policy related to not only permitting artificial intelligence but stating how it will be cited when used to ensure the proper maintenance of academic integrity. As we navigate the integration of artificial intelligence into various fields of study and limit or disallow its use in some fields or courses of study, it is essential to address these issues proactively, ensuring that the uses of information adhere to rigorous scholarly standards and ethical guidelines as these technologies can only use existing art, data sources, and such materials. As such, the university actively respects the protocols and recommendations of each field and the expertise of colleges, administrators, and faculty to determine the permitted use of artificial intelligence in each course to ensure that students receive the opportunity to provide work that demonstrates academic rigor, creativity, original research, and other aspects that are appropriate to each field, while ensuring aspects of shared governance, accountability, and academic freedom in regard to the work of the colleges, faculty, and the core of instruction. It is vital that the University of Southern Mississippi community realize that each course will determine the appropriate usage of artificial intelligence within the scope of the course and that the institution does not encourage, endorse, or facilitate the use of any or all artificial intelligence across the academic programs of the institution.

**For student’s, to be included in syllabus template**

[This section is required by all instructors including the highlighted green and the selected option on usage.]

In navigating the complex landscape of artificial intelligence in academia, it is crucial to respect the diverse aspects of the fields of study and the viewpoints and priorities of our faculty, researchers, administrators, students, and the broader community impacted by the University of Southern Mississippi. Faculty will determine the permitted use of artificial intelligence in each course to ensure that students receive the opportunity to provide work that demonstrates academic rigor, creativity, original research, and other aspects that are appropriate to each field, while ensuring aspects of shared governance, accountability, and academic freedom. Within each course, the assigned instructor will determine the appropriate usage of artificial intelligence within the scope of the course. It is the responsibility of the student to review the parameters of artificial intelligence use in each course.

This section of the syllabus outlines the acceptable use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) in this course. Generative AI tools include types of artificial intelligence technology that uses “machine learning systems capable of generating text, images, code or other types of content, often in response to a prompt entered by a user” (Hughes, 2023, TechRepublic).

**Option 1: Encouraged Use**

Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools are permitted in this class when usage complements the learning outcomes of the course and assignments. Students are required to cite usage of these tools in academic work and will be provided with examples of how to do so to ensure academic integrity.

**Option 2: Permissible Use**

There are specific instances in this course where you will be allowed to use generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) to assist in your learning. Instructions and guidelines for acceptable and unacceptable use of AI are included below [please include acceptable and unacceptable uses below], including any attribution policies. Only those assignments in which the instructor states clearly and unambiguously that AI use is acceptable can it be used. Any use of AI outside of acceptable uses in the course is in violation of the Academic Integrity Policy at the University of Southern Mississippi.

**Option 3: Prohibitive Use**

The use of generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) is not permitted in this class. Any use of AI tools for work in this class may be considered a violation of the University of Southern Mississippi's Academic Integrity policy. The instructor of your course reserves the right to send any submitted work to AI detection software. The use of unauthorized AI tools will result in consequences deemed appropriate by the instructor and will be subject to the Academic Integrity Policy and the University of Southern Mississippi.