DePaul's Approach to Artificial Intelligence

Since November 2022, when the company OpenAI released ChatGPT, generative artificial intelligence (AI) has been a topic of interest, excitement, and concern.   AI enables users to generate content – including text, computer code, images, music, etc. --- from a far broader base of information than ever before. Used well, it can support advances in medicine, finance, manufacturing, and more. Used irresponsibly, it can spread misinformation. Universities have a special challenge: on the one hand, we need to prepare our students for a world of work in which AI will certainly play a part, but on the other hand, we want our students to understand and practice integrity in the use of any sources, including those generated by Artificial Intelligence.

Faculty, staff, and students have asked what DePaul's position is on using AI. As an institution of higher learning, DePaul has a responsibility to create conditions for members of the University community to learn about both the benefits and dangers of AI and act responsibly. To that end, Academic Affairs' approach is three-fold:

- **Educational resources:** The Teaching Commons now includes a growing body of **materials** for faculty on best practices in incorporating AI into courses where appropriate, and preventing its use where that approach is necessary.

- **Policies:** In this context, AI can be considered analogous to a person, and our relevant policies apply.   DePaul's **Academic Integrity Policy** defines "Plagiarism" as "Any use of words, ideas, or other work products attributed to an identifiable source, without attributing the work to the source from which it was obtained, in a situation where there is a legitimate expectation of original authorship." In this way, content generated by AI is a "source" and should be cited appropriately; the policy is in the process of being updated to include AI as an example of a type of source that must be cited and cannot stand in for the student's own work. Similarly, the **Research Misconduct** policy defines "Plagiarism" as "the appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit," and it is reasonable to consider AI as analogous to "another person" in this context.

- **Use of AI in classes:** Faculty have the discretion to allow or encourage students to use AI in class activities and/or assignments. Course syllabi should make clear how students may or may not use AI in class-related work. You can view some sample syllabus statements **here**. In the absence of a course-specific AI policy, the general Academic Integrity and Research Misconduct policies apply.

- **Citations:** When in doubt, cite the AI source like any other.

As Artificial Intelligence becomes more widespread, conventions for its proper use will likely evolve over time. This approach aims to encourage the DePaul community to learn more about this new technology, use it responsibly, and help our students to do the same. If you have suggestions, can provide expertise, and want to engage actively in this process, please contact facultydevelopment@depaul.edu. The Center for Teaching and Learning will help route your feedback and connect you to collaborators, stakeholders, and resources.