



The Medical College of Georgia Office of Academic Affairs

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Applicable to: all students
Approved by: COC
Category: Professionalism, Miscellaneous

Medical Student Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence

Note: This policy is scheduled for review every six months.

This policy guides the appropriate use of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) by medical students during all phase of their training. The policy describes how GenAI can be used as a supplement to learning and outlines expectations for GenAI use in various learning settings, as well as ethical, privacy, and legal considerations.

GenAI has the potential to deepen a learner's understanding of medical concepts, assist in study preparations, and provide simulated clinical experiences. GenAI can be used as a resource supplement to complement, not replace, traditional learning methods and interactions with faculty and peers. While GenAI is a powerful tool, it is also influenced by biases intrinsic to its algorithms. It may have errors based upon available unvetted information sources, and it may compromise the integrity of both patient confidentiality and the institution's intellectual property rights. Learners using GenAI must ensure its use does not hinder the development of fundamental clinical skills and critical thinking abilities.

Working Definitions

- **Artificial Intelligence (AI):** AI refers to computer systems capable of performing tasks typically requiring human intelligence. These tasks include reasoning, learning, problem-solving, perception, pattern recognition, understanding natural language, and making decisions. AI can be designed for specific functions or to mimic general human cognitive abilities.
- **Generative AI (GenAI):** GenAI tools are a subset of AI designed to create new content, such as text, images, music, video, or code, by analyzing input data and identifying patterns. These tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini) use advanced models to generate responses and content that resemble human output based on prompts provided by users.

Expectations for Use

Through the course syllabus and/or direct communication, course directors, module directors and/or teaching faculty will provide learners with clear expectations for how GenAI may or may not be used in each learning setting. If expectations are not specifically stated, students should seek guidance from faculty. In the absence of this guidance, GenAI use for the course falls into the Documented/Disclosed category described below.

Learners are responsible for knowing and adhering to these expectations. Misuse of GenAI may be considered academic dishonesty and/or a professionalism violation. If learners have any questions about expectations, they should contact the director of that learning experience or Curriculum Office Leadership.



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The following language will be use in syllabi and when outlining expectations for GenAI use:

- **Unregulated:** No restrictions on GenAI use, documentation, or disclosure (e.g., email communication).
- **Documented/Disclosed:** GenAI use is allowed, but all usage must be documented and/or disclosed (e.g., background sections of assignments; responses to questions in small group or rounds).
- **Restricted:** GenAI use is limited to specific resources or tasks with required documentation or disclosure (e.g., journal club assignments).
- **Disallowed:** No GenAI use is permitted (e.g., summative assessment).

Ethical and Legal Considerations

- **Bias:** Learners must make themselves aware of potential biases and errors in GenAI algorithms.
- **Informed Consent:** Learners are responsible for obtaining faculty or student consent before using any of their intellectual property (e.g., audio recordings, lecture slides, discussions, and print materials) when engaging with GenAI.
- **Patient Care:** Given patient protected information *must* remain private. Patient trust with medical professionals and the institution are of utmost importance. Any GenAI use in clinical settings warrants additional considerations and must be discussed with faculty and approved prior to *any* use in a clinical setting. GenAI should not be used to store, share, or analyze patient information without explicit permission from supervising faculty and must comply with institutional HIPAA policies.

Research

Any use of GenAI in the course of research must be discussed with the principal investigator and adhere to the guidelines of any oversight or publication agency.

Violations

Students, faculty, and other stakeholders are expected to report policy violations to academic leadership for review. Violations may result in disciplinary action including referral to the Promotions Committee or Honor Council.

Notes:

1. Levels of appropriate AI use were modified from UVA SOM's AI Policy <https://med.virginia.edu/policies/uva-school-of-medicine-som-md-program-policy-on-generative-ai/> Accessed 7/25/24.
2. Portions of policy were generated with AI ChatGPT assistance and subsequently modified.