

At the University of New England, we recognize, and are engaged in understanding, the rapidly emerging landscape of AI, in terms of its use and potential impact in the classroom, in research, and in society. To that end, UNE has recently posted a position statement of the use of AI within the realm of teaching and learning: https://une1.sharepoint.com/sites/cetl/Shared%20Documents/UNE_AI_Statement.pdf

Within the realm of research and scholarship, we support the responsible and ethical use of AI, including generative AI based on large language models, and recognize that policies and guidelines associated with the ethical use of AI are evolving across federal funding and oversight agencies, scholarly journals and academic institutions. Specifically, faculty, professional staff and students need to be aware of emerging guidelines relating to the ethical and responsible use of AI tools in the writing and reviewing of manuscripts, papers, and grant proposals. As the use of AI tools is better understood and as policies evolve relating to the use of AI in research, the Office of Research and Scholarship will provide additional updates and guidance on the use of AI tools in research and scholarship.

It is important that before starting a research project or activity using AI tools that you discuss appropriateness and associated risks of using the technology with your co-investigators and collaborators as well as with the UNE Office of Research and Scholarship Team. When evaluating the appropriateness and associated risks of using AI tools in research, please consider the following:

1. Many Federal agencies including funders (NIH, NSF) and regulators have tools to detect AI-generated content. Be aware of these tools and the potential impact on your research and grant reviewing activities.
2. AI generated content may be **biased** and/or **inaccurate**. It is critical to validate this content using other verified sources and to acknowledge introduced bias.
3. AI generated content raises questions relating to **intellectual property** and **plagiarism**. Discuss potential impact with the UNE Office of Research Integrity and UNE Office of Sponsored Programs Staff prior to use.
4. The use of AI tools raises concerns relating to **data security** and **privacy**. Do not place UNE data (or other federal or state-owned data) into an externally sourced generative AI tool. Doing so makes the data public and open sourced and may create myriad privacy and intellectual property concerns. Seek consultation from the UNE HIPAA Office and the UNE Office of Research Integrity prior to using tools that may or may not be appropriate for PHI (and HIPAA compliant).
5. When writing and developing manuscripts be aware that journals and disciplines may vary in their requirements concerning the use of AI. As a rule, all use of AI in creation of manuscripts must be **transparently reported**. Be sure to carefully check the specific requirements and limitations for the journals you are considering for publication.
6. Current consensus among the research community is that **AI tools cannot be listed as an author** as they cannot take responsibility or accountability for the work, nor can they assert the presence or absence of conflict of interest or manage matters such as copyright agreements.
7. Care should be taken when using generative AI for decision-making purposes in research. Decisions should be **evidence based**.
8. If you decide to use AI tools in your research program it is important to be transparent concerning their use. This is vital to the concept of **rigor and reproducibility**. Standards for rigor and reproducibility can

vary across disciplines as well as journals. Be sure to understand these standards prior to using AI in your research project.

9. It is important to understand the AI practices/policies of vendors, subcontractors, and collaborators. Contracts and agreements may require new/revised terms and conditions to ensure the ethical and responsible use of AI tools by collaborating organizations.

Resources and Recommended Reading

Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/ostp/ai-bill-of-rights/>

Using AI in Peer Review is a Breach of Confidentiality

<https://nexus.od.nih.gov/all/2023/06/23/using-ai-in-peer-review-is-a-breach-of-confidentiality/>

The Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence Technologies is Prohibited for the NIH Peer Review Process

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-23-149.html>

Artificial Intelligence at NSF

<https://www.nsf.gov/cise/ai.jsp>

Authorship and AI Tools

<https://publicationethics.org/cope-position-statements/ai-author>

Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals

<https://www.icmje.org/recommendations/>

Tools such as ChatGPT threaten transparent science; here are our ground rules for their use.

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-023-00191-1>

AI Rigor and Reproducibility Checklist

<https://aaai.org/conference/aaai/aaai-23/reproducibility-checklist/>

Considerations for IRB Review of Research Involving Artificial Intelligence

<https://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/sachrp-committee/recommendations/attachment-e-july-25-2022-letter/index.html>