

Guidelines on the use of A.I. in completing assignments (Fall 2024)

Department of Communication and Media Sciences

In the Autumn 2023 semester, the Corvinus Artificial Intelligence Committee (C-AIC) produced a comprehensive and well-synthesized [AI Guide for Lecturers](#). Please refer to it for general definitions, examples, and pedagogical approaches. More recently, Elon University and the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) published the [Student Guide to Navigating College in the Artificial Intelligence Era](#) (Fall 2024). This resource is recommended for students seeking guidance on appropriate tools and academically ethical ways to use them.

What follows are the CommMedia Department's specifications for both instructors and students, in order to clarify how we interpret the more general best practices suggested by the university.

- I. Support for the use of A.I. in assignments
- II. Ethical violations in the use of AI to complete assignments
- III. Verification of ethical violations in using A.I. to complete assignments
- IV. Consequences of using A.I. in an academically unethical way

I. Support for the use of A.I. in assignments

The Department suggests that A.I. tools can be used responsibly by students in the following ways:

Initial ideation. Generation of very basic ideas on a topic (which must be then elaborated on and further researched by the student);

Identifying and understanding sources. Locating relevant research sources (which must then be verified and analyzed by the student), translating and explicating articles;

Analyzing and visualizing data. Initial visualization of datasets (which must be collected, curated, and interpreted by students);

Writing support. Improvement of syntax and phrasing of prose originally written by students.

All students who use A.I. in one of these supported ways should include a statement at the end of their assignment, explaining in some detail which tools were used and for what purpose. The Department will provide students with some templates for this purpose later on in the semester.

II. Ethical violations in the use of AI to complete assignments

In general, the Department's policy is that **AI should never be used to produce any work that was not built on student-made foundations.**

The Department considers the following specific uses of A.I. an unethical breach of academic standards:

Uncritical generation of sources. A.I.-generated identification of sources (and/or quotes from sources) and then wholesale adoption of that material into the assignment with no further reading or synthesis of said sources;

Uncritical generation of prose. The use of A.I.-produced prose that is NOT based on original student prose, and then cut and pasted into an assignment with no further synthesis by student;

Uncritical data visualization. Analysis of data (even that produced by students) without any input, reflection, or synthesis by the student.

III. Verification of ethical violations in using A.I. to complete assignments

The Department **does not endorse the use of automatic A.I.-detection tools** to determine an ethical violation. There are too many false positives, and/or hybrid uses of A.I. which might show up as a positive. The A.I. detection tools are not yet reliable.

Rather, if an instructor feels that a student work demonstrates the use of A.I. in an academically unethical way, they could consider the following measures:

- 1) Invite the student to have an **informal conversation** on the subject matter, in order to verify the student's level of knowledge of the topic;
- 2) Ask the student to **produce handwritten prose** on the same subject in a supervised setting, in order to verify the student's level of knowledge on the topic (keeping in mind that the student might have used A.I. to improve the quality of their writing); Verify the sources used by the students, ensuring that they a) exist, and b) were used appropriately.

IV. Consequences of using A.I. in an academically unethical way

If the student is found to have used A.I. in an academically unethical way once, they should be asked to **resubmit the assignment with clearly articulated references and sources**, proving the originality of their work. Resubmitted work can only be accepted for **partial credit** (the exact percentage can be determined by the instructor).

If the student is found to have **repeatedly used A.I. in an unethical way, their case can be referred to the Program Director**, with the possibility of further sanctions.