

Academic Integrity in the Age of AI

Category: Artificial Intelligence in Education

Academic integrity in the age of AI is the honest, transparent and responsible conduct of learning, assessment and research when AI systems can generate or transform academic work. It requires learners and educators to preserve trustworthy evidence of achievement while recognising that acceptable assistance varies by task and institution.

The issue is wider than plagiarism or detection. It includes accurate representation of authorship, acknowledgement of permitted assistance, verification of content and sources, protection of confidential material and responsibility for the submitted work ([Perkins, 2023](#)).

Integrity Practices

1. **Clarify:** Identify the assessment's purpose and the permitted, restricted or prohibited forms of AI use.
2. **Attribute:** Acknowledge material AI assistance in the form required by the course or discipline.
3. **Verify:** Check facts, quotations, references, calculations and interpretations against reliable evidence.
4. **Preserve authorship:** Ensure that reasoning, decisions and final claims genuinely represent the named author.
5. **Document:** Retain prompts, drafts or process evidence when required and reflect on AI's contribution.

Examples in Practice

A student may be allowed to use AI to suggest search terms but not to compose the submitted analysis. The student records the permitted use, searches scholarly databases, reads the original sources and writes the argument independently. Any language support is disclosed according to the module guidance.

Why It Matters

Clear, educative expectations are more reliable than attempting to infer AI use from text alone. Integrity is strengthened when assessment design, teaching and institutional policy help students exercise judgement and make their learning visible, while proportionate procedures address deliberate misrepresentation ([Cotton et al., 2024](#)).

Further Reading

6. Perkins, M. (2023). [Academic integrity considerations of AI large language models in the post-pandemic era](#). Journal of University Teaching & Learning Practice, 20(2), Article 7.
7. Cotton, D. R. E., Cotton, P. A., & Shipway, J. R. (2024). [Chatting and cheating: Ensuring academic integrity in the era of ChatGPT](#). Innovations in Education and Teaching International, 61, 228–239.
8. Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education. (2023). [Reconsidering assessment for the ChatGPT era](#). QAA.

Related Terms: Assessment Redesign for Generative AI | AI Source Verification | Authorship | Research Ethics