CSE 5402 Generative AI Use Policy: Collaborative AI with Full Transparency*

Our Philosophy: AI as a Learning Partner

In this course, we view generative AI (GenAI) as a powerful tool for collaboration, critique, and refinement. Our goal is to evaluate your independent thinking *and* your ability to navigate AI tools effectively and ethically. Under the **AI Assessment Scale**, this course generally operates at **Levels 3/4/5 (Collaboration/Full/Exploration)**: you are encouraged to use GenAI to assist your workflows unless an assignment prompt explicitly states otherwise.

Where the Boundary Lies (Human-First Design)

While AI can help you refine your ideas, the core creative and intellectual direction must come from you. For example, when designing the models, contexts, roles, and other factors that structure your interactions with GenAI tools, **you and the other students you are working with must make the first attempt** to define the constraints and objectives for those interactions. Once you have documented that first draft, you are welcome to enlist GenAI to critique, stress-test, or optimize your setup, and if so, you should provide citations for each of those interactions.

Attribution and Transparency Requirements

When collaborating with AI, absolute transparency is required to "audit" your workflow—a crucial professional skill. If GenAI contributes to any submitted work, you must include an APA-style citation consisting of:

1. **Author/Company:** The creator of the tool (e.g., OpenAI, Anthropic, Google).
2. **Date:** The date or date range of the interaction.
3. **Title of the Chat:** The name or primary topic of the thread.
4. **Format:** In square brackets, state the tool/interaction type (e.g., [Generative AI chat]).
5. **Model/Version:** The tool used (e.g., ChatGPT-4o, Claude 3.5 Sonnet, Gemini 3.1 Pro).
6. **Access Link or Appendix:** A URL providing read access to the full chat transcript. *(If your tool or account settings do not allow for public link sharing, you must export the chat transcript and include it as an Appendix at the end of your document).*

In your text or an appendix, you should also note key prompts that yielded the most significant breakthroughs or shifts in your work and summarize how the interaction fit into your workflow.

Best Practices for AI Collaboration

To make documentation manageable, we recommend maintaining **modular chats**. Instead of using massive continuous chat threads, open a fresh, targeted chat for each specific task or project phase. Keep your prompts professional, precise, and intentionally structured.

Your Responsibility (WashU Academic Integrity)

AI-produced content can be inaccurate, biased, or even entirely fabricated. You are the final author of any work submitted in this class. You are fully accountable for the accuracy, credibility, and ethical use of the arguments and data in your papers. Presenting AI-generated content without the proper attribution detailed above violates the WashU Academic Integrity Policy. When in doubt about whether an AI interaction requires a citation, please reach out to your instructors for guidance!

*This policy document was produced in collaboration with GenAI tools [1].

[1] Google, June 4, 2026, “AI Policy Audit and Revision,” [Generative AI chat], Gemini 3.5 Thinking, https://gemini.google.com/u/1/app/f94af4297175816b?pli=1.