Allegheny Biology Department policy on use of generative AI
August 2023

Academic work in the Allegheny Biology Department involves developing essential skills, such as critical thinking, problem-solving, and effective communication. These skills cannot be fully developed by relying on AI. Engaging in independent research, reading, writing, and discussion with peers and instructors are crucial components of academic work that should not be overlooked or replaced by technology.

Using an AI-content generator such as ChatGPT to complete assignments without proper attribution violates academic integrity and will be reported as a breach of the Allegheny Honor Code. By submitting assignments in this class, you pledge that they are your own work and you have attributed use of any tools and sources.

Responsible and ethical use of AI includes being aware of the limits of large language model generative AI tools, such as ChatGPT:

- Fact-check all AI outputs. Assume it is wrong unless you cross-check the claims with reliable sources. Current AI models will confidently reassert factual errors (such as a land route you can use to walk from the UK to France) or generate credible, but non-existent, academic references. You are responsible for any errors or omissions.

- AI is not a human expert. It is not capable of independent thinking or making judgments based on personal experiences, cultural contexts, or ethical considerations. AI may be a complementary tool to academic work, but cannot act as a replacement for one's own thinking and analysis.

Disclosure of AI use: AI is a tool that should be acknowledged when it is used. If you use AI, you must write a short paragraph at the end of your assignment to explain which AI tool you used and how you used it. Include the prompts you used to get the results. Include a citation in the following format: OpenAI, chatGPT. Response to prompt: "Explain what is meant by the term 'Krebs Cycle'" (August 20, 2023, https://chat.openai.com/). Failure to do so is a violation of the Allegheny Honor Code, and will be treated as such.

The use of generative AI tools is permitted (with appropriate acknowledgement) in Biology Department courses for the following activities:
- Brainstorming and refining your ideas;
- Fine tuning your research questions;
- Revising outlines you have drafted yourself;
- Checking grammar and style.

The use of generative AI tools is **not permitted** in Biology Department courses for the following activities:
- Completing group work that your group has assigned to you;
- Writing a draft (either rough or final) of an assignment;
- Writing sentences, paragraphs, papers, or computer code to complete class assignments, quizzes, or exams.

Any assignment that is found to have used generative AI tools in unauthorized ways will be reported as a violation of the Allegheny Honor Code. When in doubt about permitted usage, please ask for clarification.