**Context on the use of Artificial Intelligence at USM**

It is crucial to respect the diverse disciplines and varied viewpoints and priorities of our faculty, researchers, administrators, students, and the broader community impacted by the University of Southern Mississippi. While some courses and fields can utilize artificial intelligence as a meaningful tool, it is essential to consider that, like any other tool, it cannot be used for every type of educational endeavor and can likewise be misused or used in a way that does not further meaningful learning, development, and engagement within some fields. The university values offering student experiences that demonstrate academic rigor, creativity, original research, and other aspects that are appropriate to each field, while ensuring aspects of shared governance, accountability, and academic freedom in regard to the work of the colleges, faculty, and the core of instruction. **Instructors are encouraged to guide discussions with students about the ethical use within the discipline and course perspective as well as to highlight the varied uses across courses at USM.**

Over the past three semesters, the reported academic integrity violations have increased significantly due to unauthorized use and misuse of artificial intelligence. Thus, I draw your attention to challenges in artificial intelligence applications. One of its notable challenges lies in the sourcing and attribution of information. Uncited or improperly attributed material utilized by artificial intelligence algorithms undermines academic integrity and raises ethical concerns regarding the accuracy, creativity, and reliability of generated content. As such, it requires courses to have a defined policy on whether using artificial intelligence is permissible but, if permitted, stating how it will be cited when used to ensure the proper maintenance of academic integrity. Further challenges arise through use of unreliable sources or hallucinations, which are the result of outputs that are inaccurate and based on perceived patterns in the large language models of artificial intelligence.

Given the nature of discussions and lack thereof between programs about the ethical use, access, and engagement with artificial intelligence, this addendum to the syllabus requirement is added to use as a preface to the existing options for artificial intelligence (those being the statements of selecting a level of usage- full usage, limited or outlines usage, and no usage that are existent at this time). By including this preface to the individual course selection, we intend to ensure the varied use and acceptance of artificial intelligence is communicated across all fields to all students. This underscores the importance of each individual faculty member’s role in examining the policy as it is made in each course, and how this process may be problematic in certain creative endeavors.

**Artificial Intelligence Usage Policy for Instruction – Implemented Spring 2024**

Syllabus Policy as of July 31, 2024:

**For student’s, to be included in syllabus template**

[This following section is required by all instructors in their syllabus on artificial intelligence, followed by your selection of one of the three options below to identify expectations in your course.]

Each instructor will determine the permitted use of artificial intelligence in each course to ensure that students receive the opportunity to provide work that demonstrates academic rigor, creativity, original research, and other aspects that are appropriate for their discipline. It is the responsibility of the student to review what, if any, artificial intelligence tools are permitted for use in each course.

This section of the syllabus outlines the acceptable use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools in this course. Generative AI tools include types of artificial intelligence technology that are “capable of generating text, images, code or other types of content, often in response to a prompt entered by a user” (Hughes, 2023, TechRepublic).

**Option 1: Encouraged Use**

Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools are permitted in this class when usage complements the learning outcomes of the course and assignments. Students are required to cite usage of these tools in academic work and will be provided with examples of how to do so to ensure academic integrity.

**Option 2: Permissible Use**

There are specific instances in this course where you will be allowed to use generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) to assist in your learning. Specific assignments will be noted by the instructor clearly and unambiguously that AI use is acceptable and can be used for those assignments. Any use of AI outside of acceptable uses in the course is in violation of the Student Academic Integrity Policy at the University of Southern Mississippi.

**Option 3: Prohibitive Use**

The use of generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) is not permitted in this class. Any use of AI tools for work in this class may be considered a violation of the University of Southern Mississippi's Academic Integrity policy. The instructor of your course reserves the right to send any submitted work to AI detection software. The use of unauthorized AI tools will result in consequences deemed appropriate by the instructor and will be subject to the Student Academic Integrity Policy and the University of Southern Mississippi.