

Policy on Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence

OHSU PA Program

Policy Title: Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use in the Physician Associate Program

I. Purpose

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Generative AI (GenAI) technologies are increasingly used in healthcare, education, and research. The purpose of this policy is to establish clear expectations for the ethical, responsible, and transparent use of AI by Physician Associate students and faculty at OHSU.

The OHSU PA Program encourages the ethical and responsible use of generative AI tools to assist students during their training. These tools can simplify tasks, offer creative inspiration, and help personalize learning and study strategies, making generative AI a valuable learning partner for students. However, many assignments during PA training emphasize the *process* of completing the work, fostering the development of critical reasoning, analysis skills, and all foundational skills in the field of medicine. Therefore, students must not use generative AI tools as replacements for their own knowledge acquisition, analysis, or self-reflection.

This policy seeks to:

- Enable innovation while safeguarding professionalism and academic integrity
- Promote ethical, equitable, and secure AI use across education, research, and clinical care
- Ensure compliance with OHSU policies and all applicable state and federal laws and regulations (including HIPAA and FERPA)

This policy applies to all physician associate student-related educational, clinical, research, and administrative activities involving AI tools or systems within OHSU and at non-OHSU clinical sites.

II. Definitions

For the purposes of this policy:

- **Artificial Intelligence (AI):** Computer systems or algorithms capable of performing tasks that typically require human intelligence.

- **Generative AI (GenAI):** AI systems that produce new text, images, or data outputs based on user prompts (e.g., ChatGPT, DALL·E, Copilot, Gemini, Perplexity, Claude, etc.).
- **Large language model (LLM):** An AI text prediction system trained on vast amounts of text that can mimic understanding by generating coherent, context-aware human-like language
- **Automation Bias:** The human tendency to over-rely on AI systems or decision-support tools, even when the output may be incorrect.
- **Hallucination or confabulation:** Generation of plausible but factually inaccurate information by AI systems.
- **Attribution:** Proper acknowledgment and documentation of AI assistance in academic, clinical, or research work. AI utilizes data from various sources including copyrighted material, owned intellectual property, or other content requiring license for use, which must be recognizable when reviewing AI-generated content.
- **Algorithmic Bias:** Systematic and repeatable errors that create and perpetuate unfair outcomes due to biased data or algorithm design.
- **Consent and disclosure:** Consent is a clear and informed agreement to allow something to happen, while disclosure is the process of communicating relevant information to parties who may be impacted when using AI.
- **Personally Identifiable Information (PII):** Data that can be used to identify, contact, or locate an individual.
- **Protected Health Information (PHI):** Individually identifiable health information protected under HIPAA.
- **Educational Records/ Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):** Records maintained by the institution related to a trainee's academic performance.

III. Guiding Principles

1. **Professionalism and Ethics:** Trainees are stewards of the ethical use of technology consistent with medical professionalism and in alignment with OHSU policies.
2. **Responsible Use:** AI tools may only be used when approved or authorized by OHSU. When working at non-OHSU sites, that institution's guidelines and policies determine appropriate use in the clinical environment.
3. **Attribution:** Regardless of the AI tool used, attribution of how the tool is used is required. This applies to AI tools used in the course of performing one's duties at OHSU (clinical, educational, and research) outside of OHSU approved and/or embedded AI tools.

4. **Transparency and Disclosure:** Users must disclose any use of AI in educational, clinical, or scholarly work, including details on the tool, uses, their purpose, and the application in the work and consistent with any applicable OHSU policies.
 - **Suggested language:** “This work was prepared with assistance from [AI tool name] to support [purpose] based on [source material]. [Your name] has reviewed all content for accuracy.”
5. **Accountability:** Supervising clinicians and trainees have shared responsibility for the integrity, accuracy, and originality of their work when using AI tools. Ensuring the accuracy and appropriateness of the AI outputs is essential to the safe, ethical use of AI in the healthcare environment. To achieve this, it is imperative to include a “human in the loop” to maintain oversight of the AI-assisted process.
6. **Data Protection:** Protected Health Information (PHI), identifiable data (PII), and FERPA-protected student information may only be entered into OHSU prior-approved AI tools. Violations of the AI use with OHSU Information policy will be handled in accordance with the Information Privacy and Security Sanctions Policy (ISP-23).
7. **Oversight:** AI use in education and performance of OHSU duties requires oversight by students, faculty, supervising clinicians or designated supervisors.

V. Acceptable and Prohibited Uses

1. **Prohibited AI Use (strictly prohibited and subject to disciplinary action)**
 - a. Inputting PHI, PII, or identifiable data or education records into non-approved tools.
 - b. Submitting AI-generated work as original without disclosure.
 - c. Using AI to evaluate, rank or score applicants unless the process is approved by institutional leadership and uses OHSU-approved methods.
 - d. Using AI to bypass required academic or administrative work without appropriate engagement, editing, and verifying such work.
2. **Permitted with Attribution (disclosure and verification of accuracy required)**
 - a. As a learning, teaching, or assessment aid, provided content is critically reviewed by faculty or trainee.
 - b. In clinical decision support tools approved by the institution and integrated into secure, HIPAA compliant systems.
3. **Encouraged (requires adherence to disclosure and oversight standards)**
 - a. Using institutionally approved AI for education, workflow efficiency, or patient communication enhancement.

VI. Application by Setting

A. Clinical Setting

- Use of AI tools including scribes are permitted for the purpose of transcription only. Patient consent must be obtained and use of AI must be disclosed and documented. Students must verify the accuracy of any transcription used in documentation.
- Generative AI tools may not be used by physician associate students for clinical documentation; including generation of summary, assessment and treatment plans
- Use of generative AI as a clinical decision-making tool is discouraged; students are encouraged to use high-quality resources such as peer-reviewed publications, society guidelines, and expert opinion reviews

B. Educational Setting

- Students must ensure that assignments submitted under their name are their own original work. If AI tools are used, transparency and appropriate acknowledgement must be provided.
- Use of AI is prohibited on all exams unless otherwise stated in the course syllabus
- Students may use AI tools to enhance understanding or assist with assignments, provided such use is permitted and disclosed.
- Programs will include AI-use expectations in course syllabi and model transparent, appropriate use.
- Unauthorized or undisclosed use of AI tools in coursework constitutes a violation of the academic integrity policy.
- Any educational data about current or prospective students (evaluations, interview scores, milestones data) must only be entered into OHSU approved AI tools.
- Students are permitted to input curricular material into OHSU-approved generative AI tools for the purposes of studying. Use of other generative AI tools is at the discretion of the course director. Students should seek permission from course directors if they are uncertain about appropriate use of AI.

C. Research and Scholarly Work

- AI use in research must comply with OHSU's Research Integrity and Data Governance policies.

- Scholarly work must disclose AI use in manuscripts, abstracts, or presentations and verify factual accuracy of AI-generated content.
- Confidential or proprietary data must not be entered into AI tools without prior approval from the Office of Research Integrity.
- Authors must accept responsibility for the accuracy and veracity of the work submitted in their name(s).

D. Professionalism and Ethical Use

- PA program students, faculty and staff are stewards in the ethical use of technology and follow the principles of professionalism. In our roles, we acknowledge AI based contributions to our work, reflect and act accordingly on the potential impacts of AI, model responsible AI use and adhere to institutional AI Governance policies. We aim to mitigate bias introduced and inherent in AI algorithms and cross-check AI contributed work with validated academic sources.

VII. Institutional Access and Resources

- OHSU will maintain a **registry of institutionally approved and prohibited AI tools**, accessible through the IT Security portal.
- Requests for AI tool evaluation or pilot approval will be submitted through the OHSU AI Governance Committee.
- Accessibility and assistive AI use will comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

VIII. Governance, Oversight, and Review

- **Policy Ownership:** The PA Program will maintain and disseminate this policy.
- **Review Cycle:** This policy will be reviewed annually or more frequently as AI technologies evolve.
- **Alignment:** This policy aligns with the OHSU Academic Integrity Policy, HIPAA/FERPA standards, and Institutional Information Security Policy.

IX. Compliance and Enforcement

Violations of this policy may result in corrective or disciplinary action under applicable institutional policies.

Violations must be reported to the Director of Academic Education, Director of Clinical Education, or Program Director. Some violations must also be reported to the OHSU Integrity Office.

