



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY
The Graduate School of Arts & Sciences
Master of Science in Data Science & Analytics

DSAN- Chat GPT usage guidelines

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Clearly chatGPT is a novel and powerful technology. There are legitimate use cases that can help you learn, as well as cases that **cross a line** into territory that is unethical and would be considered "cheating" by reasonable individuals.

Students typically KNOW when they are crossing the line into un-ethical territory. As a general rule, If you feel like you might be crossing a line ... then you probably are!!

When in doubt double check with your professor to see if the use case is acceptable or not.

Moreover, ChatGPT is trained on a massive amount of text data from the internet, including books, articles, websites, and other textual sources. So when you are using ChatGPT, you may be using some paper or a book without citing it properly which counts as **plagiarism**.

Why should you adhere to ethical usage

- Using ChatGPT as an unethical "shortcut" will generally impede your education and retention of relevant information.
- **When you "cheat" in this manner, the ONLY person you HARM is YOURSELF.**
- You have chosen a career path, and your objective should be to become as proficient and competent in your chosen profession as possible.
- If you take shortcuts, you will eventually reach a point where you lack the knowledge needed to excel in your job. In such a scenario, you will be unable to "keep up" with your peers and will likely develop a negative reputation associated with a lack of knowledge or proficiency.
- This may also lead to serious setbacks in job interviews, particularly those with a technical component. If you heavily rely on this tool for your class assessments, you won't develop the practical skills and knowledge necessary to perform well in technical interviews. Many professions, especially in the fields of technology and data science, require you to demonstrate your problem-solving abilities and technical expertise during interviews.
- By not putting in the effort to learn and practice independently, you risk being unable to code or answer technical questions in interviews. This lack of proficiency can hinder your chances of landing the job you desire.
- Employers value candidates who can show their skills and knowledge in real-world situations, and relying on ChatGPT to bypass the learning process may lead to missed career opportunities and hinder your professional growth.
- Copying questions to ChatGPT and getting direct answers or complete code for your assignments from the AI is considered a form of **cheating** and is highly unethical.
- Academic institutions and employers take a dim view of such unethical behavior and may impose serious consequences, including academic penalties or damage to your professional reputation. It's crucial to approach your education with integrity and honesty to ensure personal and professional growth.

Acceptable use cases

In all instances mentioned below, exercise caution and consistently verify the content to ensure its reliability. ChatGPT often generates inaccurate and nonsensical answers ,i.e. hallucinations , so it's crucial to be vigilant and double-check.

- There are several legitimate use cases for integrating ChatGPT or similar language models into a college class that do not involve cheating. Here are some examples:
 1. **Supplemental Learning:**
 - **Tutoring Support:** ChatGPT can be used as a supplementary tool to provide additional explanations and support for students who need help with understanding concepts discussed in class. For example, "what are examples of relevant applications of the Normal distribution", "what is the difference between the normal distribution and the exponential distribution"

- **Note:** You need to be particularly careful about double checking when using LLM tools to provide you with factual information, it is NOT always reliable or accurate.
 - **Interpretation Assistance:** Students can use ChatGPT to get BASIC explanations for their understanding of the material or assignment instructions. For example, "what is this question asking me to do"
2. **Research Assistance:**
- **Idea Generation:** Students can use ChatGPT to brainstorm ideas for research projects or essays, helping them refine their thoughts before approaching a professor. For example, "I'm studying forest fire growth in the United States, what are some of the most promising research directions in this field"
 - **Clarification on Concepts:** If students encounter complex concepts in their research, they can use ChatGPT to seek clarification or additional information. For example, "What is rotational invariance"
3. **Programming Help:**
- **Understanding Code:** In programming classes, students may use ChatGPT to get suggestions on debugging code or understanding programming concepts. For example, asking "what is this code doing", is a legitimate use case.
 - **Automated Code commenting:** You can accelerate your documentation of existing code using ChatGPT. In this case, you need to make sure you know what the code is doing and check that the comments are accurate.
4. **Writing Improvement:**
- **Editing and Proofreading:** ChatGPT can help students improve their writing by providing suggestions for grammar, syntax, and overall structure. For example, "Proof-read up the following text"
 - **Document summaries:** For example, "condense the following text into a 500 word summary", or "what is the following text saying in plain english"
 - **Idea Expansion:** Students can use ChatGPT to expand on their ideas and refine their arguments before submitting written assignments.
5. **Accessibility Support:**
- **Assistive Technology:** ChatGPT can be used as an assistive tool for students with learning disabilities, providing additional support in understanding course material.
6. **Mock Interviews and Communication Skills:**
- **Interview Preparation:** Students preparing for job interviews can use ChatGPT to simulate interview scenarios, helping them practice articulating their thoughts effectively.
 - **Communication Skills:** ChatGPT can be used to improve oral communication skills through simulated dialogues and discussions.

Un-acceptable use cases

While ChatGPT and similar language models can be valuable educational tools, there are instances where their use could be considered cheating or academically dishonest. Here are some **illegitimate** use cases:

1. **Plagiarism:**
- Using ChatGPT to generate entire essays, assignments, or other written work
 - Creating text without proper attribution.

2. **Submission of Pre-Generated Answers:**

- Submitting responses generated by ChatGPT as one's own work without understanding or original contribution.

3. **Taking Online Exams or Quizzes:**

- Using ChatGPT in real-time to find answers during online exams or quizzes where external assistance is prohibited.

4. **Unauthorized Collaboration:**

- Using ChatGPT to collaborate on assignments or exams when collaboration is not allowed or not properly disclosed.

5. **Automated Homework Completion:**

- Utilizing ChatGPT to automatically generate solutions for homework assignments without personal effort or understanding.

6. **Impersonation:**

- Allowing ChatGPT or a similar tool to generate responses on behalf of someone else, misrepresenting the actual authorship of the work.

7. **Providing False Justifications:**

- Using ChatGPT to generate false justifications or explanations for incorrect answers to give the appearance of understanding.

8. **Ghostwriting:**

- Employing ChatGPT to write personal statements, application essays, or other submissions where the author is expected to provide their own unique perspective.

Academic institutions have strict policies against cheating, and engaging in such activities can lead to severe consequences, including academic penalties and damage to one's reputation. Students should always adhere to their institution's code of conduct and academic integrity guidelines. If there is uncertainty about whether a particular use of technology is allowed, it's important to seek clarification from instructors or academic advisors.

If plagiarism or a violation of the honor code is discovered, the faculty member and the program will file a report with the Honor Council.

Georgetown University's Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism or academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated and may result in a failing grade. All Honor Code violations will be submitted to the Honor Council.

Academic integrity is central to the learning and teaching process. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that will contribute to the maintenance of academic integrity by making all reasonable efforts to prevent the occurrence of academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to) obtaining or giving aid on an examination, having unauthorized prior knowledge of an examination, doing work for another student, and plagiarism of all types, including copying code.

Plagiarism is the intentional or unintentional presentation of another person's idea or product as one's own. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to the following: copying verbatim all or part of another's written work; using phrases, charts, figures, illustrations, code, or mathematical/scientific solutions without citing the source; paraphrasing ideas, conclusions, or research without citing the source; and using all or part of a literary plot, poem, film, musical score, or other artistic product without attributing the work to its creator. Students can avoid unintentional plagiarism by following carefully accepted scholarly practices. Notes taken for papers and research projects should accurately record sources cited, quoted, paraphrased, or summarized sources and articles should be acknowledged in footnotes.

Honor System - All students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic and personal integrity in pursuit of their education at Georgetown. Academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, in any form, is a serious offense, and students found in violation are subject to academic penalties that include, but are not limited to, failure of the course, termination from the program, and revocation of degrees already conferred. All students are held to the Georgetown University Honor Code. For more information about the Honor Code (<http://gervaseprograms.georgetown.edu/honor/>)

Academic Integrity and Courtesy

As a Jesuit, Catholic university committed to the education of the whole person, Georgetown expects all members of the academic community, students and faculty, to strive for excellence in scholarship and in character. The University spells out the specific minimum standards for academic integrity in its Honor Code and the procedures to be followed if academic dishonesty is suspected. Over and above the honor code, in this course, we will seek to create an engaged and passionate learning environment characterized by respect and courtesy in both our discourse and our ways of paying attention to one another.