Wehrheim School of Nursing
Policy on the Ethical and Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Artificial intelligence (AI) tools, such as ChatGPT, Google Gemini, Grammarly, or Microsoft Copilot to name a few, use machine learning to generate information based on prompts. AI tools can enhance teaching and learning and healthcare delivery; however, ***AI should never replace one's own thinking and writing***. AI needs to be used effectively and ethically to uphold academic and professional nursing standards.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to guide students and faculty in the ethical, responsible, and transparent consultation and use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools to enhance learning in the nursing programs within the Wehrheim School of Nursing (WSON). The policy shares expectations in the use of AI in the WSON programs and promotes academic integrity, critical thinking, and professional accountability—all essential aspects of nursing practice.

Acceptable Uses of AI

Students enrolled in NURS courses within the WSON may use AI tools only with acknowledgement (Copilot is the preferred tool as students and faculty have priority access to this university-supported tool). AI tools may be used in the following, limited ways, provided that their consultation and/or use is disclosed, and the final work is their own. Faculty may share additional ways AI can be used; however, **AI should never replace a student's own thinking and writing.**

- Brainstorming ideas
- Developing outlines to help organize ideas
- Summarizing course materials/articles in conjunction with independent reading of the materials/articles
- Editing or proofreading one's own writing for consistency, style, and/or grammar
- Creating study aids (e.g., flashcards) as long as the student verifies all information with credible nursing sources.

Unacceptable Uses of AI

The following uses of AI constitute misuse of AI. Misuse of AI is any use of AI that violates academic integrity, misrepresents a student's own work, or fabricates information. Misuse of AI is considered academic misconduct and will be treated as a violation of academic integrity.

- Submitting AI-generated text, data, or images as one's own original work
- Using AI to generate entire assignments (e.g., essays/scholarly papers, discussion posts, clinical documentation)
- Using AI citations, data, or evidence and failing to verify credibility of sources
- Submitting AI-generated references that are incomplete or inaccurate and/or providing DOI reference links that do not work or do not associate with the information/article referenced.
- Using AI to complete online quizzes, exams, or clinical decision-making activities.
- Misrepresenting the extent of AI assistance in submitted work (e.g., limited or no disclosure of AI use in submitted assignments as required; inability to produce AI chat or describe prompt used if requested)

Disclosure Requirements

When AI tools are used as per the WSON policy, students must disclose and reference their use of AI at the end of any assignment where AI was used. Such assignments include, but are not limited to, discussion board posts, written assignments/papers, infographics, slide presentations, etc. The following is an example of how students should disclose and cite their use of AI, if used. This disclosure statement and citation should be placed at the end of the assignment.

Example Disclosure and Citation Statement

"[Insert tool and how it was used] ChatGPT was used to assist with grammar and organization of the assignment. All ideas and final content are my own."

[Provide APA formatted citation for the AI tool used] Open AI. (2025, October 7). *ChatGPT* [Large language model]. https://chatgpt.com

Additional Note

At the discretion of the course faculty member, faculty may require additional details on how AI was used to support learning (e.g., provide specific AI prompts used, or chats obtained or describe steps taken to ensure accuracy in references and links cited). If additional information on the use of AI is requested by faculty, students using AI to support their learning should be prepared to share requested documents and/or describe how AI was used.

Philosophy

The WSON's mission is to provide high-quality education, preparing professional nurse learners to advance the profession of nursing, and improve health outcomes. Similarly, the WSON's vision encourages learners to engage in the highest level of practice that elevates the profession of nursing. To achieve the mission and vision, the WSON faculty recognize the importance of integrating new technologies, like AI, into nursing education to develop nurses who are digitally literate and who are prepared to use AI to improve health outcomes (National League for Nursing [NLN], 2025, p.2).

AI tools, such as ChatGPT, Microsoft Copilot, or Grammarly, to name a few, use machine learning to generate information based on prompts. AI tools can enhance teaching and learning and healthcare delivery; however, AI needs to be used effectively and ethically to uphold academic and professional nursing standards. Nursing practice and education are grounded in integrity, accountability, and ethical reasoning. With the emergence of AI, there is a need to create trusted learning environments where AI tools are used to support learning rather than replace a student's own critical thinking, judgment, or professional insights (Johnson & Rulo, 2025). The WSON supports the use of AI for specific purposes in nursing education (see acceptable uses section). Any student who consults and/or uses AI to inform their nursing program coursework is required to be transparent about the use of AI. Additionally, students are responsible for the accuracy of anything generated/created by AI. The use of AI must align with the University and the WSON's AI and academic integrity policies, nursing's professional Scope and Standards of Practice (American Nurses Association [ANA], 2021) and the Code of Ethics for Nurses (ANA, 2025).

Ethical Considerations for Nursing Practice

AI literacy is an emerging professional competency. The use of AI in nursing should be viewed as a supportive tool. AI should never replace the learning process or be a primary aspect in any assignment/project submissions. Students should endeavor to uphold all academic and professional standards in their educational pursuits. As such, students are expected to use AI ethically and responsibly and be transparent in its use.

Review and Updates

This policy will be reviewed annually by the WSON faculty to ensure alignments with evolving best practices, institutional policy, and professional nursing standards.

References

American Nurses Association. (2021). *Scope and standards of practice.* https://www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy/scope-of-practice/

American Nurses Association. (2025). *Code of ethics.* https://codeofethics.ana.org/home

Johnson, J.E., & Rulo, K. (2025). Academic writing in nursing graduate programs: The use of artificial intelligence. *Journal of Nursing Education, 64*(10), 613-619. https://doi.org/10.3928/01484834-20250516-03

McAdoo, T., Denneny, S., & Lee, C. (2025). *Citing generative AI in APA Style: Part 1: Reference formats*. https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/cite-generative-ai-references

National League for Nursing. (2025). *National League for Nursing vision statement: Artificial intelligence in nursing education*. https://www.nln.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/nln_ai_vision_statement.pdf?sfvrsn=dbb7bef_1