ChatGPT and Other Gen AI Tools
What You Need to Know at KPU

You've probably heard about OpenAI's chatbot that was launched in November 2022 – ChatGPT. This generative artificial intelligence (Gen AI) chatbot has the ability to answer questions, execute user instructions, and converse with you in a human-like way.

So, how does this affect your studies and what do you need to know about tools like ChatGPT?
At KPU, academic integrity is taken seriously. Read through the Q+A below to see how this technology is being treated at KPU.

Q+A

Note: The questions below reference ChatGPT, but the answers also apply to other Gen AI tools (such as Microsoft Co-Pilot, Grammarly, Dall-E, and more).

Q: Is the use of ChatGPT an academic integrity breach?

A: It depends! The unauthorized use of ChatGPT can be considered an academic integrity breach. Although ChatGPT can produce "unique" content, AI-writing is still detectable. Breaches can come with serious consequences – you can learn more about this on the Academic Integrity website. If your instructor doesn't mention the use of Gen AI tools, assume that you are not allowed to use it.

If your instructor gives you permission to use Gen AI tools for an assignment and you follow your instructor's guidelines correctly and properly cite its use, then it would not be considered a breach. You may find that some of your instructors are allowing the use of ChatGPT while others are not. An instructor could also choose to allow it only for some assignments, but not all of them. Check with your instructor if you are not sure if or when you can use it. For example, your instructor may permit you to use Grammarly for grammar and spelling checks but not for its AI-powered features. Therefore, it's essential to double check with your instructor to ensure alignment on expectations.

Q: How should I cite and reference the use of technology like ChatGPT? Where can I find resources about this?

A: If your instructor allows you to use ChatGPT in an assignment, make sure to cite it. You can take a look at the KPU Library's Guides for APA and MLA. Your instructor might also have additional requirements, such as providing an appendix of the prompts used and the output. Ask your instructor how they would like to you cite and reference use of this technology.

Q: What are some of ChatGPT's limitations?

A: When using ChatGPT, it is important to understand that it is a machine and not an actual human. This results in ChatGPT producing very confident sounding answers that can be completely wrong! It is important to double check the information and to think critically about the answers that are being generated.

In addition, the content from ChatGPT can be racist and biased in different ways. When you enter a prompt, ChatGPT uses an algorithm to predict the most likely sequence of words based on the information that it has been trained on. ChatGPT's responses are also not always of the highest quality – it can be repetitive, vague, and lack the specific details that an assignment might require.

Q: What should I be aware of when it comes to Privacy when using ChatGPT?

A: Like many online tools, data is being collected and stored when you use tools like ChatGPT. Examples of this are your chat history and the information that you provided when creating an account. We suggest not entering any private or personal information into the tool when using it.

Remember that any technology can be a risk to your:
- security (physical and online safety)
- sense of self (impact to your identity and control over it)
- reputation (how you and your behavior are judged by others)

Input information about you into AI tools as if it will be written to the public and seen by your instructor and peers.

If you have any concerns with using tools like ChatGPT, share them with your instructor. If after communicating with your instructor, you still have concerns, email KPU's Academic Integrity Unit at academic.integrity@kpu.ca for further support. An instructor cannot require you to create an account to use ChatGPT or similar technologies (unless the course learning outcomes specify the use of Gen AI), however an instructor may require an alternative task to be completed to accomplish the same learning goal.

If you are ever unsure if you are allowed to use tools like ChatGPT in your coursework, please double check with your instructor. If you have questions about generative artificial intelligence tools and academic integrity, but don't know where to start, email academic.integrity@kpu.ca.

Remember that you are here to learn. Gen AI tools can be helpful in certain situations to facilitate the learning process, but you still need to do your own work. You want to make sure that you have the knowledge and skills needed for the next step in your career! For more on GenAI at KPU, visit the centralized website here.