



GUIDELINES ON THE USE OF AI IN GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Last updated July 17, 2026

Purpose

These guidelines outline College-level expectations for the ethical and responsible use of artificial intelligence (AI) by graduate students fulfilling the non-coursework requirements of their thesis/dissertation. For coursework, students must follow the instructor's rules or seek clarification before using AI.

Supervisor Approval

At the University of Saskatchewan, unpermitted use of AI may be considered a breach of academic integrity. As such, graduate students must discuss with their supervisors how they intend to use AI, **obtain their approval**, and notify them of any new proposed uses as the research progresses. For help articulating how AI may be used, a list of purposes and tasks can be found at the bottom of page 2. As of September 2026, students will need to disclose their use of AI in their theses and dissertations.

Permitted Uses (with Approval)

Once the supervisor has approved its use, AI may be used to support, but not replace, the student's own scholarly work. In other words, all AI-assisted outputs must be critically reviewed and verified by the student. Students must be able to explain, justify, and defend their reasoning and the contents of their work regardless of whether AI tools were used.

Student Accountability

Students are responsible for:

- Any errors or misrepresentations resulting from their use of AI.
- Compliance with university academic integrity requirements regarding permitted use and proper attribution of AI (see [Academic Integrity Policy: About GenAI](#)).
- Adherence to USask guidelines governing the responsible use of AI for both students and researchers (see [USask AI Guidelines for Students and Researchers](#)).
- Ensuring that any data provided to an AI tool does not contravene compliance with the [Data Management Policy](#) and [Human Research Ethics Policy](#) of the University of Saskatchewan, and any conditions of the ethics approvals.
- Declaring AI use in their thesis/dissertation (see next section).



Declaration of AI Use in the thesis/dissertation

As of September 2026, the University policy requires:

- Declaration of any AI use for Content Generation, Scientific Exploration, or Editorial purposes in the Preface section of the thesis/dissertation, whether AI was used or not.
- Methodological disclosure of AI use in relevant sections of the thesis/dissertation, if applicable.
- Search histories, prompts used, and other details may be provided in appendices, if appropriate.

AI assistance must be disclosed if it influenced ideas, structure, wording, or content at any stage, even if not present in the final submitted thesis. For the Preface section, students may use the wording below:

Declaration of Use of Artificial Intelligence Technologies

I, [author's full name], affirm that artificial intelligence technologies were not used in the preparation of this document for any purpose.

OR

I, [author's full name], affirm that:

[*Name of the software or tool and version*] was used in the preparation of this document for [*choose all that apply: content generation, scientific exploration, editorial purposes*] to [*you may select from the lists of tasks in the footnote¹ or choose your own wording*].

[Repeat this statement for every use]

Artificial intelligence tools were not used for [*choose all that apply: content generation, scientific exploration, or editorial purposes*].

I take full responsibility for maintaining the accuracy and academic integrity of the document.

For more information on the use of AI in your graduate research, see [section 4.6.3 Use of GenAI](#) in the CGPS Policies and Procedures Manual; CGPS AI Declaration [Template](#), and [Formatting Requirements](#).

¹ **Content generation task examples** include using AI to create or develop original content, such as drafting text, creating outlines, generating code, figures, tables, or images, or translating/transcribing portions of text.

Scientific exploration task examples include using AI to support the research process, including searching or summarizing literature, explaining concepts or methods, suggesting research questions or approaches, generating or debugging code, or assisting with data analysis or interpretation.

Editorial task examples include using AI to rewrite, rephrase, improve clarity or style, reorganize text, or suggest wording beyond routine word-processing functions. Routine spelling, grammar, punctuation, hyphenation, and reference management features do not require disclosure.