

## **Sanctioned Use of GenAI in the Production of Academic Work in the School of Social Work Including Coursework, Theses and Projects**

Considering the rapid development of General Artificial Intelligence, or GenAI, the School of Social Work is issuing this statement to outline a preliminary list of sanctioned and unsanctioned uses of GenAI for course-based work, including but not limited to written and oral assignments, and non-course-based work, specifically theses and projects.

### **Sanctioned Use of GenAI**

Currently, the only sanctioned use of GenAI within the School of Social Work is the following, which we have borrowed from the University of Toronto:

1. Students can use GenAI as a learning aid “similar to consulting library books, online sources, peers, or a tutor.”<sup>1</sup>

Anything that does not fit within this preliminary list is to be understood as unauthorized and will be treated as academic misconduct. Please note that this preliminary list constitutes a positive definition of sanctioned use, focusing on what students can use GenAI for.

### **Unsanctioned Use of GenAI**

By contrast, a negative definition – i.e., a definition that outlines what students cannot use GenAI for – is made difficult by the various, changing, and unknown uses of GenAI at this moment. We provide a non-exhaustive “unsanctioned” list below to provide examples and clarity; this “negative definition” should be treated as secondary to the positive one outline above. Students should NOT be using GenAI for the following:

1. Writing sentences or paragraphs for a written assignment, thesis, project, portion of a publication, including but not limited to:
  - a. Anything written by GenAI and modified by the student
  - b. Anything written by GenAI and modified by another program
  - c. Anything written by GenAI AI and paraphrased by the student
2. Oral assignments
3. The personal statement exam for application to the third year of the 4-year HBSW or the 1-year HBSW
4. The study plan for MSW admissions

### **Responsibility of the Student**

As stated above, use of GenAI that contravenes this definition will be considered academic misconduct; put simply, if a student uses GenAI for anything other than a learning tool, it will be considered academic misconduct. Accordingly, this statement is to be understood as complementary to the *Student Code of Conduct – Academic*, including Section III pertaining

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<sup>1</sup> University of Toronto, 2024, “Generative Artificial Intelligence in the Classroom: FAQs.” Retrieved from <https://www.viceprovostundergrad.utoronto.ca/16072-2/teaching-initiatives/generative-artificial-intelligence/>

to the Academic Integrity Code.<sup>2</sup> The responsibility to clarify whether or not a particular use of GenAI falls within the sanctioned list – i.e., if that use is reasonably considered to be an aid to learning – rests upon the student. The responsibility to determine what constitutes GenAI also rests on the student, but here is a preliminary list of GenAI that would fall under this statement: ChatGPT, Gemini, Microsoft Copilot, Grammarly, Tutor AI, and Claude. Note that this includes standalone applications but also integrated components – e.g., Copilot is integrated into Microsoft Word. Overall, students are responsible to discuss any points of confusion with their instructors or supervisors in advance to provide clarity and preclude unsanctioned use of GenAI.

### **Responsibility of Professors, Instructors, and Supervisors**

Professors, instructors, and supervisors are encouraged to engage with students and their work in a way that clarifies the use of GenAI. This means, among other things, to help students clarify the nature of their use of GenAI, and to determine compliance with this statement’s definition of sanctioned use. In cases where the use of GenAI is suspected, professors, instructors, and supervisors should have a conversation with the student to clarify GenAI use and compliance with this statement. If compliance cannot be determined or a related issue resolved then the professor, instructor, or supervisor will refer the matter to the Student Conduct office for adjudication.

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<sup>2</sup> Lakehead University Secretariat, 2022, “Student Code of Conduct – Academic Integrity,” Retrieved from <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/293/docs/Student-Conduct/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20-%20Academic%20Integrity.pdf>