



# Plagiarism & AI

*“Plagiarism is the intentional or unintentional act of submitting the work of another as one’s own. If a student has any uncertainty regarding plagiarism in the submission of any class material, he or she should discuss the matter with the instructor prior to submission of the material.” (KSU Academic Code of Conduct)*

*“It is important to note that the University has not banned the use of artificial intelligence (AI). However, if an instructor requests that students refrain from using AI on a particular assignment, a violation of that request would constitute academic dishonesty and could result in academic sanctions.” (KSU Academic Code of Conduct)*

## What is plagiarism?

Read KSU’s policies, as shown above.

Plagiarism is an act of academic dishonesty. Whether “intentional or unintentional,” the university deems it as intellectual theft of someone else’s ideas. Plagiarism is taken very seriously by all universities and can harm your standing in academia as a whole.

AI has been rapidly developing over the past few years. It has become commonplace to hear about certain software, like ChatGPT or Grammarly, crafting outlines, correcting and replacing grammar, and even writing whole papers. While generative AI tools can be helpful, it is important that students understand how to use AI ethically.

# Avoiding Plagiarism

While there is no excuse for intentional plagiarism, accidental plagiarism can happen, but it usually comes from panic or confusion. Luckily, there are many easy ways to avoid plagiarism. If you ever suspect that you might be plagiarizing, these are a few strategies:

- **Speak with your instructor.**
  - If you are ever unsure about your citations, paraphrasing, quotes, or Works Cited page, ask your instructor if they will review it with you.
- **Speak with a writing coach at the KSU Writing Center.**
  - Writing coaches are always willing to help with any questions you have regarding plagiarism and correct citation.
- **When in doubt, cite it.**
  - If you are ever unsure of something needing a citation, cite it. It is much easier to remove unnecessary citations than it is to find where a citation begins and ends.
- **Avoid “patchwork plagiarism.”**
  - “Patchwork plagiarism” is when someone *either* mixes multiple sources together to make it look like a new idea, *or* when someone uses source after source after source until most of the paper is other people’s work. Even if cited correctly, these are forms of plagiarism, as most of the paper is not your own.

\*\*\*\*\*

# Using AI Ethically

At KSU, instructors define the proper and improper use of AI from class to class. Review AI usage with your instructors at the beginning of the semester to understand their expectations.

In general, however, if you use AI software to create entire assignments for you, then that is a form of plagiarism. While AI can be utilized as a brainstorming tool or as a way to help you find sources, AI should not replace your learning at the university. Developing the skills to outline, research, and write are essential to your learning.