Policy on the use of Generative AI in Comprehensive Exams, Theses, and Dissertations

This is a general policy on the use of generative (and predictive) AI in graduate examinations, theses, doctoral scholarly projects, and dissertations. It is the default followed by the Graduate School. Students should check with their faculty about program, department/school, or college-specific policies.

As the culminating examinations in subject proficiency or work of academic writing and research produced by a student in fulfillment of the requirements of a doctoral, specialist, or master's degree program, a comprehensive exam, dissertation, doctoral scholarly project, or thesis is expected to be the student's original work. A student must not submit a comprehensive examination, dissertation, doctoral scholarly project, or thesis that contains written content, images, tables, references, music or musical scores, or data generated by artificial intelligence (AI) tools, unless:

- such content is permitted by the student's departmental or college AI policies;
- generative AI use is an approved accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act;
- a student's thesis or dissertation includes research on generative AI with examples clearly identified as examples and cited appropriately.

Students who violate this policy will be subject to university disciplinary procedures for academic misconduct, which can include termination of their degree program and university expulsion.

Suggestions for Appropriate use of AI for third-party editorial assistance

- Correcting spelling, punctuation, and grammar.
- Correcting formatting of margins, headings, and citations according to the style manual specified by the student (e.g., APA, Turabian, MLA).
- Making writing style suggestions, such as shortening long sentences, without changing the meaning of the text.

The student is responsible for checking that the formatting revisions suggested by generative AI are correct and comply with their published style manual and the Graduate School manual.