

Guidelines for the Use of Generative AI Tools in Courses

Office of the Provost, American University of Beirut

December 26, 2025

To ensure academic integrity and align with pedagogical goals, faculty are encouraged to establish and clearly communicate a course-specific policy on the use of generative AI (GenAI) tools, such as ChatGPT, Copilot, Gemini, and similar technologies. The course-specific AI policy should explicitly state whether AI use is prohibited, permitted with restrictions, or fully encouraged and integrated into the course. The effectiveness of the AI policy can be strengthened by explaining its pedagogical rationale, and connecting it directly to the course scope and learning outcomes. This helps students understand how the AI policy supports their learning and skills development. For instance, a policy might restrict AI in foundational courses to ensure mastery of core competencies, while encouraging its use in advanced courses to simulate professional practices.

Below are key recommendations for AI course policies:

- **Develop a Clear Stance:** Define if the use of GenAI tools is prohibited, permitted with restrictions, or fully encouraged. Include this AI policy clearly in your course syllabus.
- **Explain the "Why":** Justify your AI policy by linking it to course scope and learning outcomes, helping students understand its role in their intellectual and skills development.
- **Set Integrity Boundaries:** Explicitly state that any unauthorized use of GenAI tools may be considered a violation of the AUB [Student Code of Conduct](#), which constitutes academic misconduct.
- **Communicate Early and Often:** Introduce and discuss your course policy in class, and apply it consistently throughout the semester.
- **Focus on Goals:** The ultimate aim is to preserve academic integrity, deepen learning, and prepare students for responsible AI engagement.

Below are some examples of course policies to help guide your writing of your own statement on the use of GenAI tools in your course. Please feel free to adapt and modify these statements to your particular context and needs.

1. **Restrictive course policy – Use of GenAI tools is prohibited in all situations in the course**
In this course, the use of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) tools, such as ChatGPT, Copilot, Gemini, and similar technologies, is strictly prohibited for any course-related work. All course assignments, projects, and assessments have been designed to ensure that you personally develop and demonstrate the knowledge and skills associated with the course learning outcomes. The submitted course activities must represent your own independent thinking, analysis, and engagement with the course material.

Any use of GenAI tools, whether partial or extensive, will be considered an act of plagiarism and a violation of the AUB [Student Code of Conduct](#). Such violations undermine the integrity of the learning process and the fairness of academic evaluation. It is the your responsibility to understand and adhere with this policy to ensure that your work authentically reflects your effort, skills, and academic growth. Please note that expectations regarding GenAI use may vary across AUB courses, and it is your responsibility to conform to the expectations of each course.

2. Permissive course policy – Use of GenAI tools is integrated in the course

In this course, the use of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) tools, such as ChatGPT, Copilot, Gemini and similar technologies, is permitted and integrated into the learning process. The aim is to support you in developing the ability to engage with these emerging technologies thoughtfully, responsibly, and with a critical mindset. Any contribution from AI tools must be clearly acknowledged and cited in your assignments, projects, and assessments. You remain fully accountable for the quality and accuracy of your submissions. This includes fact-checking, verifying the reliability of GenAI outputs, and ensuring that the final product reflects your own understanding, reasoning, and critical analysis. GenAI can assist your learning, but it must never substitute for your intellectual engagement.

Failure to properly acknowledge the use of GenAI constitutes academic dishonesty and will be treated as a violation of the AUB [Student Code of Conduct](#). By using GenAI responsibly, you will strengthen your mastery of the course content as well as your capacity to apply emerging technologies ethically and effectively in academic and professional contexts. Please note that expectations regarding GenAI use may vary across AUB courses, and it is your responsibility to conform to the expectations of each course.

3. Conditional course policy – Use of GenAI tools in certain course activities, with prior permission or with proper citation

This course follows a conditional policy on the use of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) tools, such as ChatGPT, Copilot, Gemini, and similar technologies. These tools may only be used when explicitly permitted in the assignment instructions. For all other coursework, the default expectation is that your submissions reflect your own independent effort and intellectual engagement without the use of any GenAI tools. This policy is established to uphold the principles of academic integrity and to ensure that students cultivate essential skills in critical analysis, independent reasoning, and effective communication. While GenAI tools may serve as useful aids in certain learning contexts, their use must remain consistent with the learning objectives of the course.

When GenAI use is authorized, you must clearly acknowledge and formally cite any GenAI-generated contributions. You remain fully accountable for the quality and accuracy of your submissions. This includes fact-checking, verifying the reliability of GenAI outputs, and ensuring that the final product reflects your own understanding, reasoning, and critical analysis. Failure to properly acknowledge the use of GenAI constitutes academic dishonesty and will be treated as a violation of the AUB [Student Code of Conduct](#). Please note that expectations regarding AI use may vary across AUB courses, and it is your responsibility to conform to the expectations of each course.