Statement on Use of Generative AI

The use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools and services, such as Copilot, ChatGPT, Claude, Perplexity, and Gemini, is growing rapidly within higher education, including at the University of Nebraska System (NU). Although AI offers new and powerful capabilities for research and education, it also poses a potential risk to institutional data that NU is legally and ethically obligated to protect.

Generative AI tools collect and store data from users as part of their learning process to train their models. Any data entered into such a tool will become part of its training data, which may then be shared with others outside of NU. **For this reason, university faculty, staff, students, and affiliates may enter institutional data into generative AI tools or services only when:**

- The information is classified as low risk data as defined within Executive Memorandum No. 41 or Executive Memorandum No. 42, or
- The AI tool or service being used has undergone appropriate internal review, which may include but is not limited to:
    - cybersecurity vendor risk management,
    - data governance,
    - identity management,
    - IT architecture,
    - privacy,
    - accessibility, and/or
    - procurement

  and NU-ITS has published guidance for responsible use of the AI tool or service.

The use of generative AI by University of Nebraska System faculty, staff, students, and affiliates is subject to all NU-ITS Standards, Board of Regents Policies, Executive Memorandums, and Records Retention Schedules. Examples of generative AI use prohibited by these policies include, but are not limited to, the following:
- Entering any sensitive, restricted, regulated, or otherwise protected data – including hard-coded passwords into any generative AI tool or service (Policy on Risk Classification and Minimum Security Standards)
- Using AI-generated code for institutional IT systems or services without review by human to verify the absence of malicious elements (DRAFT - ITS-22 Secure Software Development Standard)
- Using generative AI to violate laws, institutional policies, rules, or guidelines, or agreements or contracts (Policy for Responsible use of University Computers and Information Systems)

In addition to violating NU policies, some of the above uses may also violate generative AI providers' contracts, policies, terms, and conditions.

Researchers who may need to enter any data other than low risk data into a generative AI tool or service as part of their research programs should consult the policies above as well as their campus research offices and NU-ITS.

Enterprise-wide generative AI services offered by NU-ITS will be administered in accordance with NU-ITS Standards, Board of Regents Policies, Executive Memorandums, and Records Retention Schedules.

For uses of generative AI that are not prohibited, NU faculty, staff, students, and affiliates can help protect themselves and others by choosing tools and services that exhibit the National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST's) characteristics of trustworthy AI (NIST AIRC - AI Risks and Trustworthiness).