

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

(effective January 2026)

Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI), like ChatGPT, is a type of artificial intelligence designed to produce content based on patterns and information gleaned from many sources. Students using AI within coursework is considered academic misconduct and is prohibited in coursework *unless*: (a) it clearly meets one of the allowable-use definitions detailed below or (b) the instructor provides explicit written instructions to use AI on a specific assignment. Students are responsible for misunderstandings that could have been prevented by asking the instructor.

Our coursework prepares students to produce effective and meaningful outcomes for those they will serve, as well as passing the BCBA certification exam. To meet these goals, students must produce independent, well-written work demonstrating skills such as analysis, integration, reflection, application, and critical thinking. Misuse of AI during coursework can preclude the learning process and may produce a deficient skill set. However, once students attain these skills, they are likely to find AI useful for some purposes in their career as a behavior analyst.

Understanding the boundaries of acceptable use supports academic integrity and learning. To this end, please carefully attend to the following in which we will define relevant terms, define acceptable vs. prohibited uses, describe consequences for misuse of AI, and suggest alternative supports.

Policy Definitions

Policies are based on these definitions:

- **Proofreading** refers to making corrections to surface-level issues such as spelling, grammar, punctuation, or capitalization.
- **Editing** involves changing word choice, sentence structure, tone, or organization; it goes beyond proofreading and is not permitted.
- **Predictive text** provides word and phrase suggestions as new content is written. It is not permitted.
- **Generative AI** can proofread, edit, and generate novel content. It is permitted only as described below.

Parameters for Acceptable Use: Proofreading, Formatting, and Studying

Proofreading

Prohibited: Examples include changing sentence structure, paraphrasing, and organizing content.

Acceptable Use: Use of built-in proofreading features (e.g., Microsoft Word Spelling & Grammar Check and similar tools) is always allowed and does not constitute the use of artificial intelligence. In addition, students may request assistance with grammar, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and single-word clarity substitutions if use is disclosed as described below.

Examples of Acceptable Generative AI Prompts:

- Proofread this for spelling, punctuation, and grammar errors. Do not rewrite sentences or reorganize content
- Bold any single words that might be unclear to the reader.

Disclosure: For proofreading to be an acceptable use, a disclosure statement must include:

- The tool(s) used
- The purpose for which the tool was used.

Examples of Acceptable Use Disclosures

- I used Grammarly to fix grammar and spelling errors.
- I asked Co-Pilot to, "Proofread my paper for spelling, punctuation, and grammar errors. Identify any single words that are unclear. Do not rewrite sentences or reorganize content."

Formatting

Prohibited: Examples include asking for: a paragraph that includes citations, a list of APA-formatting references on a particular topic, new information that is organized into a table, and a table of hypothetical data.

Acceptable Use: Students may request assistance formatting citations, references, tables, and figures if they provide all information to be formatted and if use is disclosed as described below.

Examples of Acceptable Generative AI Prompts:

- How should I format the in-text citations for this reference according to APA requirements?
- Do my references include all information required by APA style?
- Organize this listed information into a table with the following headings: Authors, Year, Title etc.
- Check the graph I am uploading for formatting errors

Studying

Strict Prohibition: Do not, ***under any circumstances***, input test questions, case studies, graded assignments, or any course materials labeled confidential or proprietary into generative AI tools.

Acceptable Use: Learning, clarifying, and practicing course content, except when taking quizzes and exams.

Examples of Acceptable Generative AI Prompts:

- What is the difference between a stimulus prompt and a response prompt in ABA?
- Provide three examples of respondent conditioning that might be observed with children?
- Create an MA-level quiz that uses ten realistic applied scenarios for me to practice discriminating stimulus prompts vs. response prompts. Provide a key at the end.
- Write 20 fill-in-the-blank terminology definition questions for an MA-level student to practice understanding these 20 ABA terms: determinism, pragmatism, etc.
- Write 20 fill-in-the-blank application scenarios questions for an MA-level student to practice understanding these 20 ABA terms: operant conditioning, respondent conditioning.

Please consider these AI limitations:

- AI may generate content that is inaccurate or incomplete.
- AI models may have biases based on limited, unreliable, or problematic sources.
- AI may have limitations such as evaluating information and thinking critically.

Strictly Prohibited Academic Integrity Violations

Default rule: AI use is prohibited with the following two exceptions:

- Proofreading, formatting, and studying as defined above
- Written directions from the instructor explicitly authorizing AI use for a specific assignment

Examples of AI Academic Integrity Violations for Assignments: A Non-Exhaustive List

- Generating, expanding, or adding content beyond the student's original work
- Creating arguments and connections beyond your personal understanding and analysis
- Paraphrasing or summarizing content
- Including fabricated or falsified information
- Presenting the ideas of others as your own
- Using predictive text to write papers

Examples of AI Academic Integrity Violations Beyond Assignments

- Using AI to answer course questions
- ***Strict Prohibition: Do not, under any circumstances, input test questions, case studies, graded assignments, or any course materials labeled confidential or proprietary into generative AI tools. Doing so constitutes a serious academic integrity and data privacy violation and may result in formal disciplinary action, including a failing grade or program dismissal.***

Summary

Your coursework must reflect your own independent thinking and writing. Limited AI use is permissible only for surface-level proofreading, formatting, and studying, within the guidelines of this policy and with required disclosure. Any AI use that generates, rewrites, or expands your work, or that uses confidential course materials, is prohibited and treated as an academic integrity violation

Activity / Purpose	Example Tools (not exhaustive)	Allowed?	Conditions / Notes
Basic spelling/grammar check	Microsoft Word Spelling & Grammar check /Google Docs built-in checker	Yes	Considered nongenerative; no disclosure required
Proofreading (surface-level corrections)	Grammarly(free) ProWritingAid, Hemingway	Yes	Only spelling, grammar, punctuation, capitalization, single-word clarity Must disclose tool and purpose on assignment
Formatting citations, references, tables	ChatGPT, Copilot, other generative tools	Yes	Student supplies all content AI only formats Must disclose tool and purpose on assignment
Studying / practice questions	ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, Perplexity, etc.	Yes	May clarify terms or create practice items; do not input tests, graded work, or proprietary text.
Predictive Text	Text Predictions in Microsoft Word, Smart Compose in Google Docs, GrammarlyGo	No	Includes tools that provide word, phrase, and sentence suggestions while writing
Editing	ChatGPT, Smart Compose in Google Docs, Microsoft Word Editor, GrammarlyGo	No	When settings and/or tools go beyond proofreading to include changing word choice, sentence structure, tone, and/or organization
Generating or expanding content	Any generative AI	No	Includes writing paragraphs, examples, or arguments beyond your own work.
Paraphrasing or summarizing sources	Any generative AI	No	Considered unauthorized rewriting of content.
Answering graded course questions	Any generative AI	No	Includes inputting or paraphrasing study guide, quiz, exam, written assignment, or capstone questions (note: studying is permitted according to acceptable-use definition above)
Uploading tests, cases, or proprietary text	Any AI tool (including “study” use)	No	Explicitly prohibited; may be treated as a serious academic integrity and data privacy violation.