

AI Use at The Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary: Guidelines, Ethical Considerations, and Risk Awareness

At The Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, we acknowledge the transformative impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on education and research. AI tools offer a range of capabilities that can enhance accessibility, streamline learning processes, and support academic excellence. From grammar correction and logical flow analysis to brainstorming and idea lookup, AI tools may help students sharpen their thinking and present their ideas more effectively. For instance, AI can support self-quizzing, assist in the pre-reading of materials, and aid in the development of structured thesis statements.

However, the benefits of AI must be balanced with awareness of its limitations and risks, as well as a commitment to ethical use. While AI can serve as a powerful tool, its application must uphold our seminary's values of originality, integrity, and accountability.

Appropriate Uses of AI in Academic Work:

- AI-powered tools may be used to enhance students' understanding of complex ideas, assist in logical flow analysis, and provide support with grammar, syntax, and thesis development.
- AI tools can help students brainstorm, create structured outlines, and analyze data patterns for research projects, offering vital support for academic rigor.
- Students using AI for academic purposes are required to document its use clearly in a footnote, specifying the tool and purpose to ensure transparency. Students need to clearly also state the source, usage, tools as well as the amount/quantity of AI generated text they included in the paper.

Inappropriate Uses and Accountability:

- AI-generated content must not be presented as original work. Any attempt to pass off AI-generated text as one's own or to use AI to fabricate sources will be considered academic dishonesty, with serious consequences. When a case of academic dishonesty is identified, the faculty member formally reports the incident to the academic dean. The Associate Dean reviews the case and may refer it to the seminary's conduct committee for further investigation. The committee evaluates the evidence, hears from the involved parties, and determines the appropriate consequences based on the severity of the violation. Depending on the findings, disciplinary actions may range from formal warnings to suspension or, in the most severe cases, if it's recurring, expulsion from the program. This process underscores

the seminary's commitment to academic integrity and the ethical development of its students.

- AI cannot be used for completing exams, take-home tests, or assignments intended to assess students' independent understanding.
- Students are expected to verify any information generated by AI and are responsible for inaccuracies or unsupported claims that may result from AI's occasional "hallucinations" or fabrication of sources.

Risks and Limitations of AI: AI's potential risks in academic settings must be carefully managed. Overdependence on AI can impair students' ability to think critically and independently. Students must also be vigilant against AI's tendency to create false or fabricated references, a risk that could lead to accidental plagiarism. Additionally, without proper oversight, AI's design can sometimes inadvertently spread misinformation, undermining the reliability of academic work.

Faculty need to review AI-related submissions carefully, with an understanding of AI's strengths and weaknesses. AI can serve as a beneficial supplement to learning but should not replace essential academic skills or undermine the authentic voice and insight students bring to their work.

Commitment to Ethical Standards and Academic Integrity: At the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, our commitment is to foster an environment where AI enhances, rather than diminishes, the academic experience. Both students and faculty share responsibility in using AI thoughtfully and ethically. We continue to reassess AI's role in academic settings, ensuring it aligns with our mission to support both intellectual and moral development.

In conclusion, AI has the potential to enrich academic work when used responsibly. By combining its advantages with a commitment to integrity, accountability, and critical thought, we can create a balanced approach to AI in education that supports, rather than detracts from, true learning.