UCONN | THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

UCONN HEALTH BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE PROGRAM

Policy for Using Generative AI in the Biomedical Science PhD Program

While numerous generative artificial intelligence (AI) technologies have become available that can aid biomedical research and hence augment graduate student learning and scientific training, they also have the potential to be misused and impede the development of critical thinking and communication skills. The purpose of this policy is to provide a basic guideline template for the permissible and impermissible usage of generative AI technologies in courses, the General Examination, the Thesis/Dissertation and its prospectus, and other related settings. Since permissible AI uses will often differ depending upon the setting (e.g., different courses, the General Examination, etc.), course directors and AoC directors are encouraged to modify the policy template outlined below to align with the relevant learning objectives, and should clearly communicate these policies in their course syllabi, homework instructions, the General Examination instructions, and other relevant places.

- Use of AI in writing: Students are required to author their own homework assignments, term papers, written portions of their General Examinations, Thesis/Dissertation and prospectus, and other related documents. In these settings, while it is permissible for students to use the Spelling & Grammar check function built into Microsoft Word to polish what they have written, it is not permissible for them to use AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, etc.) to generate text as a substitute for their own writing. Such use is considered academic misconduct.

- Permissible uses of AI: In certain settings, it may be permissible to use AI tools for specific applications. Some examples might include, but are not limited to, AlphaFold for structural biology, or other tools that generate coding or working hypotheses for subsequent experimental validation. Permission for such uses must be given by a relevant faculty member(s), such as a course director or examination committee in the case of the General Examination. Further, students must clearly and appropriately indicate all such AI uses (e.g., in a figure legend of a General Examination: "code used to plot data in Figure X was generated with assistance from ChatGPT").

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