

On the potential use and misuse of Generative AI

Data Visualization and Exploration: STAT 4413/5413, Spring 2026

There is no need for the use of Generative AI for this class. I am not just being stubborn or old-fashioned - simply put, in widespread, uncritical application, it is not good for you and it is not good for us more broadly.

For centuries, if not longer, humans have shown capacity to develop, comprehend, execute, and apply concepts and techniques related to this class. Those actions do not necessarily come easy, but when they do, they provide insight, foster a broader understanding of our content and its applications, and give us all a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment.

I will not knowingly use Generative AI to create, summarize, revise, or grade work related to this class – because you are a person and you deserve the attention and support of another person. Beyond that, it is built on the uncompensated use of copyrighted works and has massive environmental impacts. It cheapens our interactions and threatens the quality of our futures.

It is expected that you do not use (Generative) AI for work related to this class during this semester. If you are asked about your use at any time, you should answer honestly. My goal this semester is to give human feedback to human work and help you learn what is expected of you.