

Policy Name: Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Academic and Research Contexts Policy

Policy Owners: Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
Office of the Executive Vice President for Research

Policy Contact: AI Governance Officer, aigovernance@gatech.edu

Reviewed By: University System Office, Executive Leadership Team, Policy Steering Committee, Office of the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, Office of the Executive Vice President for Research, Faculty Senate, Faculty and Research Community, Office of General Counsel, Office of Internal Audit, Office of Information Technology

Policy Steering Committee Approval: June 2026

Policy Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to establish supportive criteria for the ethical, responsible, and secure use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in teaching, learning, and research activities at Georgia Tech. It aims to align campus practices with USG guidelines while firmly protecting and respecting academic freedom, research integrity, and student privacy.

Summary of Substantive Policy Elements:

- **Defines Academic Boundaries:** Governs the use of AI in teaching, learning, coursework, and research activities conducted by faculty, researchers, staff, students, and affiliates.
- **Defines Institutional Values:** Articulates eight core ethical principles—such as accountability, transparency, and fairness—to guide the responsible application of AI tools in scholarly endeavors.
- **Supports Student Innovation:** Clarifies that students acting in their personal capacity using free or personally licensed AI tools with their own data do not require formal administrative approvals, provided their use aligns with academic guidelines.
- **Encourages Instructional Clarity:** Recommends that instructors provide students with clear, syllabus-level guidance regarding the permissible and impermissible uses of AI in their specific courses and assignments.
- **Promotes Research Integrity:** Outlines standard expectations for the appropriate disclosure and citation of AI contributions in research practices, data analysis, and scholarly publications.
- **Maintains Human Oversight:** Advises instructors and researchers to apply independent human validation before relying on AI outputs to inform grades, research processes, or published findings.
- **Leverages Existing Campus Frameworks:** Seamlessly links unauthorized or undisclosed AI use to existing, familiar disciplinary pathways, including the Academic Honor Code and standard research misconduct policies.



Georgia Institute of Technology

Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Academic and Research Contexts Policy

Policy No. TBD

Type of Policy: Academic

Effective Date: TBD

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External Requirement for Review: TBD

Compliance Reporting: TBD

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1. Reason for Policy

The growing availability and use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) are providing new opportunities for teaching, learning, research, administrative, and related activities. Georgia Tech recognizes AI as a catalyst for innovation, productivity, and creativity, and is committed to enabling responsible access to these tools. As these new capabilities become available, Georgia Tech faculty, researchers, staff, students, affiliates, and units ("GT Community Members" hereinafter) must understand how to utilize AI in an ethical, responsible, and secure manner in their Georgia Tech-related activities. While AI provides new capabilities, it is designed to assist and must never replace the critical thinking, professional judgment, or decision-making responsibilities of GT Community Members.

This Policy outlines requirements in compliance with the University System of Georgia's ("USG") various Policies and supporting artifacts, including, but not limited to, the IT Handbook, AI Companion Guide, and Board of Regents Policy Manual.

This Policy applies in connection with the Georgia Tech AI in Administrative and Employment Contexts Policy, which notes additional requirements related to all employees and GT Community Members who work in an administrative setting.

Refer to the Georgia Tech AI Governance website for corresponding guidelines, standards, procedures, and resources. [Learn More](#)

2. Policy Statement

This policy governs the use of AI in Academic and Research Contexts. While a complete glossary is maintained in Section 4 (Definitions), the following core concepts are defined here to establish the immediate scope of this Policy:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) refers to a technology family that enables computers to perform a variety of advanced functions, including the ability to process visual cues, understand and translate spoken and written language, analyze data, and make complex recommendations. This technology family includes, but is not limited to, Generative AI (GenAI), Large Language Models (LLMs), and Machine Learning (ML).

AI Tools refer to any software, platform, device, or cloud service – whether Institute-licensed, open-source, embedded within another product, or publicly accessible on the web – whose core functionality relies on an AI technology as defined above.

2.1 Guiding Ethical Principles and Safeguards

This policy is guided by the following ethical principles and safeguards:

- Accountability
- Safeguarding Protected Data
- Human Oversight and Safety
- Safeguards against Hallucination
- Fairness and Bias Mitigation
- Transparency
- Accessibility
- Protection against Prompt Injection Attacks

GT Community Members who employ AI tools in Academic and Research Contexts must act in a manner consistent with these guiding ethical principles, including measures to reduce the risk of misleading or adversarial outputs.

2.2 Responsible Use and Accountability

Through this policy and supporting artifacts, Georgia Tech maintains a standard for responsible AI use in Academic and Research Contexts. Because AI use can implicate additional Georgia Tech requirements and expectations, GT Community Members must comply with this policy in conjunction with all other relevant Policies, including but not limited to the [Academic Honor Code](#), [Faculty Handbook](#), AI in Administrative and Employment Contexts, and various [information technology policies](#).

2.2.1 Accessing AI Tools

For work in Academic and Research Contexts, GT Community Members must use AI tools that are either an (1) Institutionally Approved AI Tool or a (2) Limited Use AI Tool as designated by a Local AI Point of Contact. GT Community Members can find approved tools and the process for requesting tool approval at the following URL: <https://oit.gatech.edu/governance/ai/>

Please note that use of an approved AI tool must remain within its approved scope and for its intended, approved purpose.

A student's use of free or personally licensed AI Tools in Academic and Research Contexts must be consistent with this policy and accompanying guidance. Institute review, approval, and inclusion in the Institute or a Local AI Registry are not required for a student's personal use of free or personally licensed AI Tools with their own data.

2.2.2 Safeguarding Protected Data

Consistent with other Georgia Tech policies and legal requirements, GT Community Members must safeguard any information that includes personally identifiable information (PII) or is categorized by the Institute as Protected Data.

GT Community Members must not submit any data categorized by the Institute as Protected Data or any data including personally identifiable information that can directly or indirectly identify another individual (for example, the combination of major, GPA, and academic term) into an AI Tool unless it is an approved scope for an approved AI Tool.

Even when using institutionally approved tools, GT Community Members must adequately safeguard this data from improper disclosure. Further discussion of safeguarding protected data and personally identifiable information (PII) may be found in the Guidance on the Use of AI in Academic and Research Contexts.

2.2.3 Respecting Intellectual Property (IP) and Regulatory Requirements

Any AI usage that violates applicable laws, regulations, intellectual property rights, or employment standards and Policies is prohibited. GT Community Members must not use AI Tools to infringe upon third-party copyrights or expose the proprietary or protected information of Georgia Tech or any third parties.

2.2.4 Verifying the Accuracy After AI Use

GT Community Members should verify the accuracy of information generated by AI tools before using or relying on the information because AI output can be inaccurate, biased, hallucinated, or contain copyrighted material.

GT Community Members are responsible for the accuracy of any information they use or publish that includes AI-generated material.

Guidance on methods to verify AI-generated material for accuracy is addressed in the accompanying Guidance on the Use of AI in Academic and Research Contexts (to be linked).

2.2.5 Disclosure of AI Use

GT Community Members using AI tools in their academic, scholarly, and research products may need to disclose that AI has been used in their creation. The magnitude of the AI use and significance of the work product are factors to determine the necessity and appropriateness of a disclosure. GT Community Members should not create the impression that output generated by AI tools is their own. GT Community Members should cite any quotations, paraphrasing, or ideas derived from AI tools. The Institute may treat a failure to do so as a violation of the [Academic Honor Code](#), an infringement of another's IP rights, or an act of [scientific or scholarly misconduct](#). Disclosure is discussed more fully in the accompanying Guidance for the Use of AI in Academic and Research Contexts.

For more information on academic integrity, GT Community Members should refer to the [Academic Honor Code](#) and resources maintained by the [Office of Student Integrity](#).

For more information on research integrity, GT Community Members should refer to the Faculty Handbook provisions governing [Scientific or Scholarly Misconduct](#) and resources for the responsible conduct of research maintained by the [Office of Research Integrity Assurance](#) and the [Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Education](#).

2.2.6 AI in Academic Instruction

The Center for Teaching and Learning provides guidance and sample language to support instructors in communicating expectations regarding AI use. Instructors should provide students with clear guidance about permissible and impermissible uses of AI in their courses and assignments. Instructors should refer to the current Georgia Tech Catalog for requirements regarding syllabus content describing acceptable student conduct as it relates to the use of AI. Before instructors may use AI outputs to inform grades, provide formal feedback, or create any official record, instructors should use Human Oversight to verify the appropriateness and correctness of the use.

2.2.7 AI in Research Practices and Scholarly Communication

GT Community Members should use independent Human Oversight and validation

appropriate to the discipline and context in their research when using any AI Tools.

GT Community Members should verify any AI outputs before they inform research processes or data analysis.

GT Community Members and their teams should use the Guidance on the Use of AI in Academic and Research Contexts (to be linked) to inform the use and disclosure of AI contributions to research. GT researchers must also comply with applicable funder and publisher policies relevant to the work.

GT Community Members should not create the impression that output generated by AI tools is their own. Accordingly, GT Community Members should appropriately disclose the use of AI to produce or substantively inform Scholarly Communications consistent with the Guidance on the Use of AI in Academic and Research Contexts and applicable funder and publisher policies relevant to the work.

2.3 Data Protection and Privacy

In addition to the provisions noted above in section 2.2.2, GT Community Members using AI in Academic and Research Contexts must comply with applicable laws, regulations, and Institute policies governing student and institutional information. Collection, use, storage, and transmission of such information in connection with AI must be authorized and limited to the purposes of instruction or research. Additional information about data protection and privacy at Georgia Tech may be found on the pages for [Data Governance](#), [Cybersecurity](#), and [Privacy](#).

GT Community Members should promptly report any suspected AI misuse or ethical concerns, but must immediately report any associated data incidents or breaches to the Georgia Tech Cybersecurity team (email soc@gatech.edu or call 404-385-2927).

2.4 Education and Awareness

Georgia Tech provides ongoing education on AI risks, ethics, responsible use, compliance, and policy awareness. The AI Governance Program, in conjunction with the academic and research divisions, coordinates education offerings and participation expectations.

GT Community Members must maintain compliance with any required training.

2.5 Institutional Oversight and Accountability

This policy establishes the Institute AI Governance Program to coordinate AI governance for Academic and Research Contexts. The AI Governance Program is led by an AI Governance Officer appointed by the AI Governance Committee. The

members of the AI Governance Committee shall be appointed annually by the Chief Information Officer (CIO) and the Executive Sponsors, which include the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs (EVPAA), Executive Vice President for Research (EVPR), the Executive Vice President for Administration and Finance (EVPAF). The AI Governance Officer will collaborate with designees of the Executive Sponsors and together, provide Institute-wide coordination, alignment, and escalation for AI governance within the boundaries of this policy.

The AI Governance Program maintains a published process to receive and route questions and complaints related to AI use in Academic and Research Contexts, coordinating resolution through existing Institute mechanisms. The AI Governance Program coordinates and enables AI governance across the enterprise, while decisions that only impact academics and research remain under the authority of the EVPAA and EVPR and their designees, respectively.

2.5.1 Unit Oversight, Accountability, and AI Points of Contact

Executive Sponsors, members of the President's Cabinet, and Deans must designate one or more Local AI Points of Contact for their division, college, or library. School chairs, vice provosts, and other unit leaders may also designate one or more Local AI Points of Contact to support their unit, or utilize the support network provided by the unit to which they report.

Local AI Points of Contact serve as a support network and local liaisons to help GT Community Members navigate the Institute's AI requirements. For faculty and researchers, these contacts act as a resource to assist in evaluating proposed AI tools in accordance with the AI Tool Approval Standard. They help determine whether a tool can be quickly approved locally as a Limited Use AI Tool, or if its proposed academic use requires routing for an enterprise-level Institute review.

The formal authorization, registration, and administrative management of AI Tools by Local AI Points of Contact are governed by the AI in Administrative and Employment Contexts Policy.

2.5.2 Monitoring for Compliance

The Institute maintains appropriate monitoring and compliance processes consistent with existing policies. The administrative responsibilities for monitoring and maintaining AI audit trail records are governed by the AI in Administrative and Employment Contexts Policy.

2.5.3 Policy Maintenance and Review

The AI Governance Program shall establish a regular schedule to formally review and update all institutional AI governance Policies and supporting artifacts. The AI Governance Program must review this AI Policy annually, or more frequently as needed, to reflect emerging legal, technological, or organizational changes.

3. Scope

This policy governs the use of AI in Academic and Research Contexts by all Georgia Tech faculty, researchers, staff, students, affiliates, and units in the performance of any activity within Academic and Research Contexts for or on behalf of Georgia Tech.

Additional policies and procedures documents – including, but not limited to, the Student Code of Conduct, Academic Integrity Policy, and Faculty Handbook – may also address permissible uses of AI.

This policy is supported by additional related Institute Standards, Specifications, and Procedures, including the accompanying Guidance on the Use of AI in Academic and Research Contexts. If there is a conflict, this policy will be the authoritative source.

4. Definitions

Academic and Research (A&R) Contexts	Academic and research work, including but not limited to teaching, learning, coursework, assessment, laboratory or field research, research data analysis, and preparation of scholarly communications
Administrative and Employment (A&E) Contexts	Any administrative, operational, or business activity performed for or on behalf of Georgia Tech that falls outside the specific scope of Academic and Research Contexts.
AI Tool	AI Tools refer to any software, platform, device, or cloud service – whether Institute-licensed, open-source, embedded within another product, or publicly accessible on the web – whose core functionality relies on an AI system
Artificial Intelligence (AI)	A technology family that enables computers to perform a variety of advanced functions, including the ability to process visual cues, understand and translate spoken and written language, analyze data, and make recommendations from heuristic analyses.

Generative AI (GenAI)	A form of AI capable of generating text, images, videos or other data using generative models, often in response to prompts.
Hallucination	Conditions when an LLM process identifies patterns or objects that are nonexistent, creating nonsensical or inaccurate outputs.
Human Oversight	Independent human judgement that is applied to review and validate AI outputs before acceptance
Institute AI Register	The Institute system of record for Institutionally Approved AI Tools
Institutionally Approved AI Tool	An AI Tool approved by the AI Governance Committee and listed on the Institute AI Register
Large Language Model (LLM)	A computational model recognized for the ability to achieve general-purpose language generation and other natural language processing tasks such as classification.
Limited Use AI Tool	An AI Tool reviewed and approved by a Local AI Point of Contact based on the requirements established by the AI Tool Approval Standard and the guiding ethical principles outlined in Section 2.1.
Local AI Register	A local system of record for Limited Use AI Tools
Machine Learning (ML)	A branch of AI and computer science that focuses on using data and algorithms to enable AI to imitate the way that humans learn, gradually improving its accuracy.
Prompt Injection Attack	A type of cyberattack that crafts inputs that cause an AI Tool to override intended instructions or controls, produce misleading outputs, or disclose information inappropriately

Protected Data	A data protection categorization where information is generally not available to parties outside of the Georgia Tech community. This is the default data protection categorization for Organizational Data. A Protected Data categorization does not always mean that the data contained therein is confidential or non-disclosable and such data may be subject to disclosure under the Georgia Open Records Act or other applicable laws and regulations. For more information, see the Data Governance and Management Policy (https://policylibrary.gatech.edu/information-technology/data-governance-and-management-policy).
Scholarly Communications	Scholarly communications may include, among other things, communications such as literature reviews, grant proposals, conference proceedings, manuscripts, theses/dissertations, and related writing prepared for submission, delivery, or publication

5. Procedures

This Policy is supported by additional related Institute guidelines, standards, and supporting artifacts, including the accompanying Guidance on the Use of AI in Academic and Research Contexts. If there is a conflict, this Policy will be the authoritative source.

6. Responsibilities

6.1 Academic Domain: The Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and designated college and school leaders provide academic direction and ensure policy-aligned implementation in Academic and Research Contexts. Academic colleges designate a college-level AI point of contact; schools, departments, and units may designate their own points of contact or adopt the college point of contact.

6.2 AI Governance Committee: Provides strategic guidance, direction, and sponsorship for Institute AI governance; designates the AI Governance Officer.

6.3 AI Governance Officer: Leads the enterprise AI Governance Program; serves as the Institute point of coordination for AI governance and convenes designees of the Executive Sponsors to align decisions across Academic and Research Domains.

6.4 AI Governance Program: Coordinates AI governance across the Institute, including coordination with the Academic and Research Domains.

6.5 Colleges, Schools, Departments, and Research Centers: Implement discipline-specific guidance; designate required Points of Contact; and may adopt additional local requirements for AI use within their unit but they are not permitted to exempt GT Community Members from Institute AI provisions.

6.6 Executive Sponsors: The Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs (Provost & EVPAA); the Executive Vice President for Research (EVPR); and the Executive Vice President for Administration and Finance (EVPAF) provide strategic oversight for this policy, designate Academic and Research Domain point of contacts, and provide the resources necessary to support and sustain the AI Governance Program.

6.7 Instructors and Principal Investigators: Set assignment- and project-level expectations for AI use in their courses and research teams; apply Human Oversight before accepting AI outputs where required by this policy; follow the Guidance on the Use of AI in Academic and Research Contexts with respect to research and Scholarly Communications, and act in accordance with all other relevant policies, including but not limited to the [Academic Honor Code](#), [Faculty Handbook](#), and the various [information technology policies](#).

6.8 Local AI Point of Contacts: Serve as a support network and local liaisons to help GT Community Members navigate the Institute's AI requirements, and assist in evaluating proposed AI tools in accordance with the AI Tool Approval Standard.

6.9 Research Domain: The Executive Vice President for Research and designated research leaders provide research direction and ensure policy-aligned implementation for research; and the Office of the EVPR designates research Points of Contact appropriate to its portfolio.

6.10 Students, Faculty, Researchers, Affiliates, and Staff: Follow course, project, and unit rules established under this policy, apply the Guidance on the Use of AI in Academic and Research Contexts where applicable, and act in accordance with all other relevant policies, including but not limited to the [Academic Honor Code](#), [Faculty Handbook](#), and related [data privacy policies](#).

7. Enforcement

Georgia Tech, the University System of Georgia, and/or the State of Georgia may periodically audit compliance with this policy.

For more information, or to share suspected instances of noncompliance with this policy, please contact the AI Governance Program at aigovernance@gatech.edu.

For information on how to report academic misconduct, refer to the Office of Student Integrity's [Academic Misconduct Process](#) webpage.

For information on reporting research misconduct, refer to the Office of Research Integrity Assurance's [Reporting Violations](#) webpage.

8. Related Information

Resource	Link
Educational Records Protected Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)	https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/ferpa
Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (GLBA)	https://www.ftc.gov/business-guidance/privacy-security/gramm-leach-bliley-act
Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)	https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/index.html
USG/BOR Policy 6.28	https://www.usg.edu/policymanual/section6/C2896
USG/BOR IT Handbook 3.7	https://www.usg.edu/information_technology_services/it_handbook
USG/BOR IT Handbook AI Companion Guide	https://www.usg.edu/information_technology_services/it_handbook
GT Academic Honor Code	https://policylibrary.gatech.edu/academic-affairs/academic-honor-code
GT Student Code of Conduct	https://policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-life/student-code-conduct
GT Faculty Handbook	https://policylibrary.gatech.edu/faculty_handbook
GT Protecting Sensitive Data	https://policylibrary.gatech.edu/research/protecting-sensitive-data

GT Information Technology Policies	https://policylibrary.gatech.edu/information-technology
GT Guidance on the Use of AI in Academic and Research Contexts	https://oit.gatech.edu/sites/default/files/2026-06/A%26R%20Supplemental%20v260515-006.pdf
GT Artificial Intelligence in Administrative and Employment Contexts Policy	https://www.policylibrary.gatech.edu/artificial-intelligence-ai-administrative-employment-contexts
GT Guidance on the Use of AI in Administrative and Employment Contexts	https://oit.gatech.edu/sites/default/files/2026-06/A%26E%20Supplemental%20v260515-009.pdf

9. Policy History

Revision Date	Author	Description
TBD	Office of the Provost and Office of the Executive Vice President for Research	New Policy