Bard College Policy on Academic Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence

Statement of Principles

The emergence of generative AI (GenAI) challenges stewards of the liberal arts tradition to communicate anew with students around the values that define our pedagogy.

The Bard curriculum is designed to foster curiosity, growth, and joy in the pursuit of knowledge. The student's experience of discovery, inquiry, and reflection illuminates both the self and the wider world, igniting a desire to participate in it. Bard's approach to education is rooted in human connection and relations of trust among students and faculty, informed by the conviction that we learn best by doing our own, original work.

We recognize that generative AI may serve valuable purposes in specific educational contexts. It is the responsibility of faculty to make clear if, when, and how GenAI will play a role in any particular course or assignment, and to set expectations, if applicable, for appropriate acknowledgement and/or citation of GenAI tools. It is the responsibility of students to clarify any questions they have regarding the use of GenAI in a course and the instructor's expectations for acknowledgement and/or citation.

In addition to adhering to specific guidance offered by their instructors in syllabi and course materials, all students are expected to familiarize themselves with and to uphold Bard's Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism Policy in general and the College's AI Policy in particular.

GenAI tools, and our engagement with them, will necessarily change over time: we endorse good faith efforts on the part of all members of the Bard community to cultivate a nuanced and ethical approach to these new and emergent technologies.

AI Policy (for the Student Handbook and the Faculty Handbook)

Students may not use GenAI tools for coursework unless expressly permitted.
For the purposes of this policy, the "use" of GenAI tools includes such practices as relying on AI to summarize a text rather than reading it, prepare comments for in-class discussion, produce an outline or draft of writing assignments, and other, similar uses. Faculty are to determine and communicate in each course syllabus and accompanying course materials the degree to which they allow students to use GenAI tools, if at all.

Instructors are encouraged to define AI policies specific to their courses.
Faculty are strongly encouraged to define specific GenAI policies in their syllabus. When it comes to matters of academic integrity, the instructor's GenAI policy defines the expectations for that course.

Use of GenAI tools require acknowledgement and/or citation for academic integrity.
Even when used in accordance with guidelines provided by the instructor, students must acknowledge and/or cite GenAI contributions in keeping with the Bard Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty Policy. If the instructor does not provide specific instructions related to the citation of GenAI as a source of information, then students are expected to err on the side of transparency, making clear how GenAI has contributed to their work or to their understanding of course materials.

It is the student's responsibility to clarify questions with their instructor regarding the use and citation of GenAI in academic coursework.
When students have questions regarding permissible uses of GenAI tools in a course or on an assignment, they are expected to ask their instructors for clarification. Instructors, in turn, are expected to respond to student questions and to provide such guidance in the context of their own courses.

(August 2025, adapted with permission from Dartmouth College and in consultation with Bard's Faculty AI Committee and the President's AI Policy Working Group)