Suggested syllabus language clarifying the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies in academic courses – Spring 2024

The statement(s) below are intended to provide instructors and students with guidance on the use of AI/ChatGPT technology in academic courses including, but not limited to, submitted papers, exams, presentations, and individual assignments. As technology evolves, we will continue to update our guidance to best support our students and instructors.

Proposed Syllabus Statement:

Use of AI technology (e.g. ChatGPT, Dall E, Google's Bard, etc.) in academic coursework is at the discretion of the course instructor and may encompass all submitted coursework or be limited to individual assignments. Use of AI technology on coursework when it is not permitted is a violation of the UMW Honor Code and as such, instructors may refer students to the Honor Council for a suspected violation. Beginning in Fall 2023 all course syllabi must include a version of one of the following statements to address the use of AI/ChatGPT.

AI is not permitted in any capacity:

AI is not permitted on any assignments or deliverables in this course. Use of AI on any submitted work will be considered a violation of course policy and as such, the student may be referred to the UMW Honor Council for a violation of academic integrity.

It is suggested that instructors also include a 1-2 sentence rationale for why the tool is not suited for the specific learning environment.

AI is permitted in a limited capacity:

AI is permitted in a limited capacity in this course. Students should refer to individual assignments for details as well as how/when appropriate citation for the tool should be used.

AI use is approved in this course:

Use of AI is approved and encouraged in this course; however, students should refer to individual course assignments for instructions regarding how to use and/or document use of AI, if applicable to the assignment.

Although AI use is permitted in this course, you should keep the following points in mind:

- ● AI is a continuously developing tool. Keep track of how you use AI (e.g., original and revised prompts, where in your thinking process you used AI, different output over time). An electronic file with screenshots and notes or a written journal of your process documents your workflow and, as needed, supports appropriate attribution and citation.
- ● Fact check all AI output. AI tools are built on systems and inputs with acknowledged biases. Early and current AI output has produced factual errors and the tools 'hallucinate' or fabricate information.This is especially true if the AI is prompted about something for which it has little or no information. Unless you know the answer with 100% certainty, check responses with trusted sources.
- ● AI is only as good as the prompts it receives. It may take practice and time to use AI for results meeting expectations and standards. As a result, AI may not be the best or easiest route for completing a task.

● Different professors treat the use of AI tools differently. Double-check with individual professors if you are unsure about whether AI use is appropriate for a specific assignment.