

Tamkang University

Student Declaration of Ethical Principles for the Use of Generative AI

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Generative AI is having a profound impact on higher education. Both instructors and students can use generative AI to support their learning and their creative work. In February 2025, the University's Center for AI Ethics Education released the official guidelines "Integrating Ethical Guidelines for Generative AI into TKU Course Syllabi," which state clearly that faculty and students should uphold the two principles of transparency and responsibility when using AI tools in their courses. Top-down course regulations, however, can rarely cover every small moment of choice that arises in everyday learning and creation. In the few seconds between pressing "generate" and pressing "submit," the final judgment and the responsibility for it rest in the student's own hands. No institutional rule can fully replace a student's personal ethical awareness, and establishing one's own code of AI ethics is the key anchor that keeps students from losing their bearings over the course of their academic career.

For this reason, the Center for AI Ethics Education has prepared this Student Declaration of Ethical Principles for the Use of Generative AI as a reference for all students of the University, to help them draw up principles of their own for using AI. Students at Tamkang University should carry forward the spirit of "Integrating Ethical Guidelines for Generative AI into TKU Course Syllabi" and adhere to two main principles: Transparency and Responsibility.

- **Transparency:** Students should honestly disclose the scope and the ways in which they use generative AI in their learning and creative work, without concealment or misrepresentation.
- **Responsibility:** Students should understand that generative AI is only one of many data sources. When using it, they should possess the ability to verify its accuracy and be responsible for the content they produce.

1. Scope of Application

This Declaration applies to all situations in which students of the University use generative AI tools in class assignments, project reports, academic research, and related learning activities. Students may refer to this Declaration to formulate their own principles for the use of generative AI, and **attach the content of their declaration to the first page of a project report, a portfolio, or similar documents**. The declaration should state the name, version, and scope of use of each AI tool used, rather than referring only to "generative AI" in general terms. If no generative AI was used in a given assignment or report, a declaration is not normally needed for it; where a course requires one from everyone, students may simply state that no generative AI was used in the work.

※ If the course instructor has separately announced rules on the use of generative AI, those course rules take precedence; students may still refer to this Declaration, within what the course allows, to describe how they actually used AI.

2. Directions for Drafting a Personal Code of AI Ethics

- **Defining Core Values:**

Students should first clarify the core values they consider most important — such as honesty, fairness, privacy, and innovation — and take them as the foundation for their judgment when using AI. Only by being clear about the values they hold can students enjoy the efficiency AI brings without losing sight of the original purpose of learning and creating.

- **Setting the Scope of Use:**

Students should clearly define the tasks for which they consider AI assistance acceptable — for example, gathering and organizing materials, brainstorming outlines, polishing text, debugging code, or treating AI as a partner for collaboration and mutual learning — and ensure that these uses do not violate course regulations or academic ethics.

- **Drawing Red Lines:**

Students should clearly define the acts for which they will never use AI — for example, having AI write their core arguments and conclusions, citing AI-generated data or references without verification, substituting AI output for their own reflections, or infringing the privacy and intellectual property rights of others.

- **Establishing a Verification Mechanism:**

Before publishing or submitting any work completed with AI assistance, students should carry out a human-in-the-loop check: verifying the data and cited sources provided by AI, indicating the name and version of the AI tools used and the scope of their use, and reviewing the work and making any necessary revisions themselves, so that the final content genuinely represents their own understanding and viewpoint.

3. Verification and Guidance

- **Verification of the Personal Declaration:**

If a review finds that generative AI was used in an assignment or report without being indicated as required, the matter is handled under the assessment rules of the course and the University's related regulations, including "Integrating Ethical Guidelines for Generative AI into TKU Course Syllabi"; students bear the corresponding academic responsibility.

- **Duty to Cooperate in Providing Explanations:**

Students should cooperate with the instructor's verification and explain honestly the scope and methods of AI assistance and the results of their own checks, so as to avoid disputes over academic integrity.

Students may first use the directions above to establish their own principles for using AI, and then complete the declaration, when submitting an assignment or report, according to how they actually used AI on that occasion. Both types assume compliance with the course's own rules; they differ in the scope of AI use. Based on how they actually use generative AI in each course, students may refer to the two types below, choose the one that best fits as the basis for their personal declaration, adjust the wording to their own circumstances, and attach it to the first page of the report or assignment — taking particular care to state the scope of AI use accurately and to disclose the process of that use:

1. **Extensive use**, using AI at several points in the work within what the course allows, and indicating the methods and scope of use. (See Example 1)
2. **Conditional use**, using generative AI only within a specified scope, with the methods of use indicated. (See Example 2)

The following are reference examples. Students may quote them directly or adjust the wording to suit their own circumstances. The underlines are blanks to fill in; the **blue text** is a hint — fill in your own details and delete the hint.

Example 1 – Extensive use

Declaration of Ethical Principles for the Use of Generative AI

Guided by the principles of transparency and responsibility, I used generative AI to support my learning and creative work, and I take full responsibility for the results. I value _____ (e.g., **honesty, innovation**) as core values. I believe that making good use of AI tools can improve the efficiency of learning and creation, but I will still take my own understanding and judgment as the final basis for my work.

In completing this assignment or report I complied with the rules of the course, and I declare the following:

1. **AI tools and versions used:** _____ (e.g., Claude Sonnet 5, Gemini 3.1 Pro)
2. **Actual scope of use:** _____ (e.g., **gathering and organizing materials, brainstorming outlines, polishing text**)
3. **Limits on use and verification:** I did not use AI to write my core arguments, did not cite AI-generated data or references without verification, and did not let AI output take the place of my own reflections and insights. Other things AI was not used for: _____ (**add your own**). Before submitting, I verified the authenticity of the sources cited and made sure that the final content genuinely comes from my own understanding and judgment.

Example 2 – Conditional use

Declaration of Ethical Principles for the Use of Generative AI

Guided by the principles of transparency and responsibility, I used generative AI to support my learning and creative work, and I take full responsibility for the results. I value _____ (e.g., **fairness, independent thinking**) as core values, and I hope to improve my efficiency while retaining my own ability to judge and interpret the core issues.

In completing this assignment or report I complied with the rules of the course, and I declare the following:

1. **AI tools and versions used:** _____ (e.g., ChatGPT (GPT-5.6))
2. **Actual scope of use:** limited to the following supporting tasks — _____ (e.g., **grammar checking, translation assistance**).
3. **Limits on use and verification:** I used no AI assistance at all for _____ (e.g., **personal reflection, reflective writing**). I did not enter other people's confidential information or personal data into AI tools, and did not cite data or references provided by AI without verification. Before submitting, I checked the AI-assisted parts myself and made any necessary revisions.

※ The examples in this Declaration draw on the University's "Integrating Ethical Guidelines for Generative AI into TKU Course Syllabi" and on the generative AI teaching guidelines of universities across Taiwan, and were compiled in collaboration with Claude.

References

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