

Department of Global Gender & Sexuality Studies
AI Policy
Spring 2026

While encompassing a post- and anti-colonial, as well as anti-racist, critique of the primacy of the human to scholarly discourse, the primary concern of gender and sexuality studies as an interdisciplinary is with human beings, and human beings' relationships with each other, with non-human animals, and with their shared environments. The scholarly dispositions, critical thinking, research standards, qualitative and quantitative practical skills, and professional ethics fostered through graduate-level training in gender and sexuality studies cannot be outsourced to generative artificial intelligence (Gen AI) technologies, large language models or otherwise.

For this primary reason, as well as a concern for the environment, the Department of Global Gender & Sexuality Studies strictly prohibits the use of generative artificial intelligence technologies in the creation and revision of scholarly writing for all programmatic work done at the graduate level. While scholarly work may analyze, critique or think about artificial intelligence, all writing work completed in service of completing the degree may not utilize artificial intelligence technology in lieu of original student writing and thought. In short, all students in the Department are accountable for the honest personal completion of academic work across the varied roles (e.g., student, employee) they may occupy and the varied activities in which they engage.

Any instance of academic dishonesty, including the unauthorized or undocumented use of generative AI and AI-assisted technologies ("AI Tools"), may result in formal sanctions, including dismissal from the program.

A. Departmental AI Policy for Dissertations, Theses, and Capstones

The default expectation in the Department is that students are not using AI Tools in any aspect of their thesis, dissertation, or capstone project. If a student wishes to use AI Tools at any stage in the process (e.g., brainstorming, generating research questions, reviewing the literature, collecting data, analyzing data, writing, revising, translating, etc.), they must document such use in detail, seek written approval by their full committee (starting with the chair), and cite any approved use in the written product. Documenting use of AI Tools may take various forms, often dictated by publisher guidelines (e.g., Elsevier, Wiley, Sage, Taylor and Francis), including incorporating this disclosure into the research design, footnotes, citations, or a note at the beginning of the project.

Any approved use of AI Tools for Dissertations, Theses, and Capstones must be considered in light of the ethical standards put forth by the University at Buffalo. Students who seek approval to use AI Tools have a responsibility to make clear how their use of AI Tools does not violate these ethical standards.

B. Departmental AI Policy for Teaching and Research Assistantships

Unless approved by the relevant faculty supervisor or departmental committee, AI Tools

should not be used to aid in any part of the work assigned to you as part of a teaching or research assistantship, paid or unpaid. This includes producing and grading assignments for classes you are teaching or for which you are serving as a TA, as well as any work you complete as a research assistant. Questions about the appropriate person or committee from which to seek approval for use of AI Tools in these roles should be directed to the Director of Graduate Studies.

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C. Departmental AI Policy for Coursework

Unless explicitly approved by the relevant instructor, AI Tools should not be used to aid in any part of your coursework. This includes graded coursework and ungraded coursework and extends to sharing any course materials produced by instructors or classmates.

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D. Departmental AI Policy for Other Activities

The default expectation in the Department is that students are not using AI Tools in any aspect of their research, teaching, or service endeavors as a student, colleague, or University employee. If a student is collaborating with a faculty member on a research, teaching, or service project, any use of AI Tools must be clearly articulated and explicitly approved by the faculty collaborator(s). If a student is not collaborating with a faculty member, any use of AI Tools should be discussed with a faculty mentor and/or the Director of Graduate Studies. All work planning to be published should also abide by any ethical guidelines put forth by the relevant journal or publisher (e.g., Elsevier, Wiley, Sage, Taylor and Francis).

If a student is participating in a workshop, conference, meeting, training, or other event in which materials are shared (including verbally), students must respect the copyright of authors/presenters. Any use of AI Tools should be addressed in advance with the speaker(s) or event organizer, as unapproved use of AI Tools may violate copyright, privacy, and, at a minimum, community trust.

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E. Departmental Policy for Handling Accusations of Academic Dishonesty

The Department follows the UB Office of Academic Integrity process for handling accusations of academic dishonesty, including improper use of AI.

While the use of generative artificial intelligence technologies in certain classroom situations and pedagogical settings may be entertained and is largely left to the discretion of individual faculty, this department-wide prohibition applies especially to the sorts of activities that go into the production of scholarly writing: engaging in close and extensive reading, working with primary and critical sources, coming up with viable ideas, learning specialized vocabularies and concepts, crafting sentences and paragraphs, and synthesizing the knowledge of past and present in original contributions to the discipline. These activities are nowhere more important than in the so-called milestone projects of graduate education, the essays that constitute students' graduate examinations, and the theses or dissertations that often serve as the basis for professional presentations and publication.

Violations of this policy will be treated like other violations of academic integrity and subject to probationary review (falling out of "good standing") and the possibility of dismissal from the graduate program. The faculty members of the department's executive committee will oversee these disciplinary decisions.

This policy does not apply to the kinds of assistive artificial intelligence technologies, such as spell-check programs or thesaurus functions.

*Finalized July 31st 2026