



Generative Artificial Intelligence A message to students at SIHE (2025)

Since 2022, when the chatbot ChatGPT first made headlines, there has been rapid growth in the field of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI). At Sheridan, we are committed to fostering a culture of transparency around the use of GenAI. This includes inviting input from students and staff as we navigate this evolving landscape. Our journey involves establishing clear boundaries for the responsible use of GenAI, which we continually revisit as the technology advances and our understanding grows.

Let's start with some facts:

1. What is ChatGPT?

"GPT" stands for Generative Pre-trained Transformer. It is a large language model (LLM) and is a brand of GenAI.

2. What are the common models of GenAI?

Text-based GenAI models like ChatGPT, Llama 2, and DeepSeek are becoming increasingly prominent. Beyond text-based models, GenAI can also generate a wide range of creative content, including art, music, and video. As GenAI technology advances, it is being integrated into various applications, such as search engines (we have Ask Leo at Sheridan) and online services, making it a common feature in many everyday interactions, from online banking to buying a car or a house.

3. What can GenAI do?

GenAI models are trained on vast datasets to generate text in response to specific prompts. They can produce well-structured definitions, answer questions, and create lists on various topics. While the generated text is generally clear and easy to read, it can also appear formulaic and basic. Some GenAI models integrate seamlessly with software applications, such as Microsoft 365 Copilot, to enhance writing in Word, Excel, and PowerPoint by improving grammar, spelling, and language usage. It is possible to use GenAI to draft an email, create a form, compose a speech or a policy, create code, translate languages, provide feedback on a sample of writing, and much more.

4. Where do GenAI models draw information from?

GenAI models such as ChatGPT are programmed to extract information from a diverse range of sources, including, but not limited to, websites, textbooks, and research papers. These models also access data from online forums, social media, news articles, and reports as well as GenAI user interactions and feedback.

5. What can't GenAI do?

GenAI cannot think! It cannot reason, debate, analyse, or critique.

6. Are there privacy concerns? Is my data stored?

Yes, on both counts! For example, Open AI stores data that users input and receive from ChatGPT. This collection also includes email addresses, IP addresses, and information about when users use the system. OpenAI advises against inputting confidential matters into the chatbot.

Here's where we're heading at Sheridan:

1. Can I use GenAI when completing assignments?

There is limited capacity for GenAI to be used with preparing your assignments. For some assignments, you may be permitted to use GenAI for generating text and/or generating ideas. For some assignments this will strictly be a "no go zone". Always read your Unit Outline carefully, and if in doubt, check with your lecturer.

2. Are there dangers to avoid when using GenAI?

Yes. If the answers are not contained within the data set then GenAI has a tendency to invent "facts". This is known as a "hallucination". Also, GenAI does not have the capacity to filter bias and so material produced may not be accurate or even coherent. Another limitation is that current data sets do not necessarily include the most up-to-date information.

3. Do I have to say if I have used GenAI in my assignment?

Students must declare any use of Gen AI on each assignment cover sheet. If GenAI was used and not declared, it is considered academic misconduct (aka cheating). Refer to the SIHE Academic Integrity Policy and SIHE Academic Integrity Procedure on our website for details.

4. What if I don't want to use GenAI?

If the assessment requires use of GenAI and/or if a class activity requires the use of GenAI but you have a personal stance not to use it, please speak with your lecturer. You may possibly be given an alternative task or be supported to participate with another student.

5. Can I have input to Sheridan's approach regarding GenAI?

Yes! We have consultation opportunities so the Sheridan student voice can be heard. If you are willing to share your thoughts and ideas please email them to Dr Natalie Leitão (nleitao@sheridan.edu.au) and/or make a time to meet for a chat.

You are also welcome to make a time with Natalie for her to show you how GenAI works.

Further reading and exploration

Here are some links if you are interested in learning more about GenAI:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w6HcsECScmc>

<https://ai.meta.com/>

<https://ai.google/>

<https://analyticsindiamag.com/ai-features/>

The bottom line:

At Sheridan, as at other institutions around the world, we are navigating with the challenges and opportunities arising from ongoing advancements in GenAI. Large language models, such as ChatGPT, may create a compelling appearance of understanding content and even exhibit emotional expressions, but we must remember that they predict human-like responses through accessing data sets.

There is no law against using GenAI. However, as lovers of truth and seekers of wisdom who are innovative thinkers and effective communicators, our desire is that Sheridan students and staff who use GenAI do so wisely and ethically. Let's continue to explore this space together and keep the conversation going.