GOLDEN GATE UNIVERSITY

eLEARNING

What is ChatGPT?

ChatGPT (Chat Generative Pre-Trained Transformer) is a chatbot developed by Open AI. Users can ask general questions or type in essay prompts, computer codes, and math formulas, and the tool will return useful answers. ChatGPT is not the only Artificial Intelligence content generator on the market: some apps are free, and some are subscription-based. To access ChatGPT, which is currently a free application and will soon add a subscription-based option, users need to create an account in Open AI.

AI content generation clearly has implications for academic integrity since there is a high potential for users to use these tools to "do their work".[i] Specifically, ChatGPT has been shown to bypass plagiarism detectors such as TurnItIn.[ii] As powerful as this tool is, it's not perfect. There is a fixed amount of knowledge in its database and, as of now, there is not much data beyond 2021. Also, chatbots are better trained to generate answers to general, more commonly discussed topics. Users seeking answers to more complex topics have reported that there have been instances of ChatGPT generating incorrect facts and inconsistencies in data.

How to use it in your classes

Instead of discouraging the use of this technology, instructors and students can use it to enhance teaching and learning. There are ways both instructors and students can incorporate this technology into their teaching and learning.

Faculty

Faculty can use ChatGPT to design learner-centered experiences for their classroom. Course objectives can be optimized by inputting them into ChatGPT using a certain format to ensure that learning objectives are specific, action oriented, and measurable. After the objectives have been generated, instructors can then input them into the chatbot, specifying which type of learning strategy they wish to employ. [iii] This technology can be used to incorporate principles of Bloom's Taxonomy to aid instructors in creating classroom activities that encourage higher order thinking skills.

ChatGPT can be integrated into classroom activities. Instructors can ask students to use the chatbot to generate an essay and have students revise or critique the response; or, generate a first draft of an essay and have students revise the draft, putting a focus on the writing process. For those teaching math courses, ChatGPT can be used to generate practice problems and ChatGPT can provide step-by-step explanations on how to solve those problems.

Ultimately, it's part of the role of faculty to foster the skills students need to become lifelong learners. Faculty can design assessments that support students' critical thinking and analytical skills, which are not easily replicated by AI. These sorts of assessments could look like:

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- Projects that ask students to work with a real person, department or organization to solve a specific problem or provide a service (Authentic Assessment).
- Student-created visual representations of learning, such as concept maps, diagrams, or models.
- Projects that include student-created video explaining a process or concept.
- Guided goal-oriented reflection in class on what students have learned (like "muddiest point" exercises).
- Collaborative learning exercises where students work together to solve a problem.
- Active learning activities during synchronous sessions so learning can be applied immediately.

Students

ChatGPT is a legitimate tool that students can use to aid in their studies. Some ways students might use it to enhance their coursework is to:

- generate study questions
- create practice quizzes
- summarize complex topics
- check facts and equations
- proofread writing
- develop creative ideas for tackling an assignment

Faculty should emphasize that ChatGPT is a tool used to enhance students' education, not replace it. GGU's Academic Integrity Policy is being modified to prohibit students from using generative AI to produce a work product unless it is specifically allowed by the instructor.

Final Thoughts

This technology is not going anywhere. If anything, there will be more robust and accurate versions of ChatGPT now that Bill Gates has promised to invest billions of dollars into the development company, Open AI. Much like we did with calculators and the internet, instead of finding ways to avoid using the technology or banning it altogether, higher education should look for ways to embrace AI content generators and incorporate the tool into current academic practice.

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[i] If you are concerned that a student is using an AI content generator, use a tool called GPT Zero to copy/paste the student's work into a textbox, and GPT Zero will report how much of it was written by AI.
[ii] Turnitin will integrate AI writing detection capabilities into their in-market products in 2023.
[iii] https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7020331313136074752/

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