


AI Ethical Concerns

Key Questions



Artificial Intelligence has reached an inflection point, a time in which it has moved rapidly from a space of research and development to a point of broad integration into widely accessible technologies. Advanced Generative AI (Gen AI) has enormous implications for human creativity and productivity. However, advances in AI also pose many ethical questions and potentially negative consequences for education, industries, the environment, our local communities, and society as a whole. With any rapidly developing technology, it is wise to pause our efforts to explore if something can be done and investigate how and why it should be done.

1. Academic Integrity

- a. Have I properly attributed my use of Gen AI tools in my work? Is the work I create with the assistance of Gen AI, and how I present such products, consistent with AU's Honor Code statement and Academic Integrity policy? (Am I claiming to have created work that I did not create?)
- b. Is my use of Gen AI consistent with my own moral and ethical standards?
- c. Is my use of Gen AI consistent with a Biblical standard of ways of knowing, truth, and integrity?
- d. When deciding when and how to use Gen AI, is the bar I set with my own moral and ethical decisions consistent with Biblical teachings and Christian expectations?

2. Data Privacy and Confidentiality - assessment of specific tools

- a. What happens to the information I submit to a resource that utilized Gen AI? How is the information I input used *after* it generates the results of my work with Gen AI?
- b. Who has access to my personal information?
- c. Is my data only contained within the model I use, or is it transferred or sold to other models or entities?

3. Intellectual Property

- a. Have Gen AI models been trained on information that was the property of others, without their consent or compensation?
- b. Whose original work is used to generate the results of my efforts with Gen AI?
- c. What recourse is available to original content creators whose work has been used to train Gen AI models?

4. Cultural Bias in Algorithms

- a. Are the results of Generative AI content representative of users?
- b. Does AI-generated content perpetuate inaccurate and harmful stereotypes?
- c. Are Gen AI technologies being used to make assessments of humans based on their appearance, socioeconomic status, gender, ethnicity, or other demographic information?

5. Information Literacy - inaccurate or deceptive use of AI content in media, industry, politics, & society

- a. How can I determine whether generative AI content is accurate or contains hallucinations?
- b. How can I determine if content was created by humans or by Gen AI? How can I know if human experts have fact-checked AI-generated content shared in media?
- c. When content contains quotations, audio recordings, images, or videos of public figures, how can I verify the authenticity of the images, audio, or video presented?
- d. When content contains opinions or persuasive arguments, are those arguments backed up by verifiable facts from reliable external sources? Who benefits from me believing what a piece of content is attempting to persuade me to believe?
- e. When sources are cited in a piece of media, how do I know the sources cited are reliable?
- f. Where do I find reliable external sources?

6. Environmental Impact - use of resources and pollution

- a. What is AI *taking* from the natural world? What non-renewable resources are being consumed by the AI industry?
- b. How much electricity is used to run AI server complexes, and how is that electricity generated?
- c. What is AI *adding* to the natural world? How much water is needed to cool server complexes, and how much water pollution is created? How many metric tons of greenhouse gases are produced to generate needed electricity?
- d. Is the industry taking steps to use renewable resources and limit pollution? How?

7. Disruption of industry, workforce, and livelihoods

- a. How is the use of Gen AI becoming a standard expected skill set in the workplace?
- b. What industries are being impacted the most by advances in AI technologies?
- c. Are workers really being replaced by Gen AI? What jobs are most vulnerable to being eliminated?
- d. What specific skills with AI will be in demand for employers seeking to hire?
- e. What is AI *not* good at? What human-centered skills are most valuable?

8. Pedagogical and Neurological Impacts and the Rise of Non-critical Thinking

- a. How can Gen AI technologies be used to improve learning?
- b. Is there a danger in letting Gen AI do some of the research, writing, editing, and “thinking” for me?
- c. Does reliance on Gen AI diminish my own cognitive and creative skills? Am I not developing skills I’ll need by over-relying on AI?

9. Value of Education and Nature of Humanity

- a. Why am I pursuing a higher education degree?
- b. Is Gen AI helping me reach my educational goals, or might using it bypass some of my true goals?
- c. What personal *values* are supported or upheld by pursuing an education? How does the use of AI support or undermine those values?
- d. As Artificial Intelligence tools improve in being able to mimic human behavior, what *differences* between humans and AI are most meaningful? What does it mean to be human?