

## USask's Provisional Artificial Intelligence (AI) principles and guidelines<sup>i</sup>

USask's AI principles are intended to ensure ethical, effective, and responsible use of AI in ways that support USask's mission, vision, values, and strategic objectives and maintain the trust and confidence of all stakeholders. These principles and guidelines are intended to guide our provision, support and use of AI tools to undertake research, teaching, administration and support services. Importantly, some of these principles and guidelines may not apply when AI is the subject of research or teaching (e.g., research on or teaching about AI). These activities are seen to be governed through other university policies and practices and the rights and duties of academic freedom. USask holds to core values including Collegiality and Inclusiveness<sup>ii</sup>. Importantly, our process included examining influential examples of education-specific principles for Artificial Intelligence (AI) use including *The Beijing Consensus on Artificial Intelligence and Education*<sup>iii</sup> and the World Economic Forum's *Seven Principles for AI in Education*<sup>iv</sup>. These frameworks are either grounded in or referenced against UNESCO's *Ten Core Principles for a Humanistic Approach to AI*<sup>v</sup>. With these international examples as reference points, the USask AI principles were developed through a robust and iterative process that involved engaging community members from across our campus. USask's AI principles and practices are inclusive, responsive and effective for the use of AI at USask.

We will continue to engage in an ongoing responsive approach to evolving AI principles and guidelines – considering feedback from the university community and advancements in AI technology – to ensure that AI use will remain effective, relevant, and aligned with the evolving needs and values of our university.

As the members of USask's community are supported in aligning their AI practices to these principles and guidelines, a culture of responsible and ethical AI will be fostered. Embracing our role of the university to be the critic and conscience of society around the use of AI, USask will make its principles and guidelines for AI use publicly available and provide timely access to updates as the principles and guidelines evolve over time. Importantly, these principles present our aspirations for use of AI in a rapidly changing landscape.

### Ethical and Responsible Use

1. **Accountable.** The intentional choices and actions of humans lead our AI use and the implementation and management of AI. Humans are accountable for content they create with AI. Our administrative, educational, and research uses of AI emphasize the enhancement of human well-being and dignity and aim to support and enhance human capabilities.
2. **Inclusive.** We respect diverse local and Indigenous knowledges in our use of AI by drawing on individuals with varied cultural, disciplinary, and experiential backgrounds to inform our understanding and shape our approach. We emphasize authentic collaboration amongst individuals with diverse perspectives in decision making related to AI infrastructure and use.

3. **Equitable.** Because AI can produce content that is inaccurate and reflects bias inherent in its training data, USask users of AI take deliberate action to limit the amplification and/or reinforcement of social and academic inequalities in their use of content produced by AI.
4. **Responsible.** We strive to uphold equity and human rights in AI infrastructure decision making. We aim to uphold USask's responsibilities in ecological stewardship in the ways we procure, build, and maintain AI infrastructure.

### **Literacy**

5. **Literate.** We provide support for AI literacy development ensuring faculty, staff and students have opportunity for effective and ongoing preparation to use AI ethically and appropriately in teaching and learning, research, and administration. USask users of AI have a responsibility to engage in learning about responsible, ethical and appropriate use in their context.
6. **Accessible.** AI applications that USask provides, endorses, and supports (e.g., to produce text and images, to provide tutorial supports, to process applications, etc.) are deployed in ways that facilitate equitable access for faculty, staff and student users. We identify and implement AI applications that all faculty, staff, and students can easily use.

### **Tool Use**

7. **Transparent.** AI applications that USask provides, endorses, and supports are used openly, and use is tracked to improve effectiveness and efficiency and alignment with these principles.
8. **Compliant.** We use AI in ways that comply with USask policy, practices and legal requirements and the terms of use of the applications. AI applications that we build will be trained on reliable, relevant, and ethically sourced data.
9. **Secure.** AI use at USask will uphold rigorous privacy and security standards. We ensure steadfast compliance with legal and ethical frameworks in the AI applications USask provides, endorses and supports.

### **Change and Innovation**

10. **Innovative.** All members of the USask community strive for responsible use of AI applications to enhance learning and discovery. We recognize that innovation in the use of AI involves making space for experimentation fuelled by creativity and curiosity and that there will be innovations, challenges, and mistakes along the way. Errors and insights that result from experimentation will be used as opportunities for growth.
11. **Evolving.** The journey of AI integration is a continuous learning process requiring patience and open-mindedness. We actively seek feedback from members of the USask community as part of monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness and impact of the use of AI related to institutional priorities and the changing landscape of AI technology. We evolve these principles and guidelines, and our use based on the outcomes. ☐

## Endnotes

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<sup>i</sup> A principle is a fundamental belief or assumption that underlies and guides behaviour or reasoning. At USask, our principles shape decision-making and institutional policy by reflecting core values and setting benchmarks for educational practice, research integrity, and administrative operations, thereby fostering excellence, innovation, and inclusivity.

Alongside these principles, USask has developed a set of guidelines for specific aspects of our work. A guideline is a specific recommendation that directs actions within particular contexts. More concrete and practical than principles, guidelines provide actionable steps and standards that ensure individual and unit actions align with the university's broader principles.

The key distinction between principles and guidelines is their level of abstraction and application. Principles are abstract, forming the foundational framework for the university's ethos, while guidelines are detailed and practical, outlining specific actions that implement these overarching principles.

<sup>ii</sup> University of Saskatchewan (n.d.). Mission, vision, and values of the University of Saskatchewan.

<https://www.usask.ca/about/mission-vision-values.php>

<sup>iii</sup> UNESCO (2019). Beijing consensus on artificial intelligence and education.

<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000368303/PDF/368303qaa.pdf.multi>

<sup>iv</sup> World Economic Forum (2024). Seven principles for AI in Education.

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2024/01/ai-guidance-school-responsible-use-in-education/>

<sup>v</sup> UNESCO (2021). Ten core principles for a human-centred approach to AI.

<https://www.unesco.org/en/artificial-intelligence/recommendation-ethics>