

Statement from the Educational Technology Committee on AI policies in your classes:

The College of the Sequoias' [Board Policy 5500](#): Standards of Conduct, #13 states: "Cheating, plagiarism (including plagiarism in a student publication), or engaging in other academic dishonesty. Plagiarism means presenting other people's words or ideas as one's own. It may include, but is not limited to, submitting material taken from the web or elsewhere as original work; failing to provide complete citations and references for all work that draws on the ideas, words, or work of others; or failing to identify the contributors to work done in collaboration."

With the increasing use and access to generative AI tools, both in classes, work, and private lives, some faculty have asked for guidance on how to respond to this new technology, and if the college needs a new policy. It is the opinion of the Ed Tech Committee that our Board Policy already addresses this new technology in BP5500. Faculty can, and should define what is authorized, and unauthorized assistance in their classes, and clearly explain the ethical and appropriate use of AI, and how to properly attribute sources if allowed. We acknowledged that many faculty encourage collaborations, using tutors, group work, or other forms of authorized collaboration, and others do not allow certain technology, collaboration or assistance in any way. There are also concerns about AI detection software with false positives rates, and the research from [Stanford University](#) showing false negative biases against non-native English language writers.

Carnegie Mellon University (CMU), Eberly Center for Teaching Excellence and Educational Innovation has also concluded that general guidance and policies on plagiarism should be "intentionally designed to allow instructors to define what is "authorized" vs. "unauthorized" and what constitutes "plagiarism" and "cheating." Like CMU, the Ed Tech Committee "recommends that instructors carefully examine their own policies to make these distinctions clear in both writing and verbally to students."

CMU provides several [teaching resources](#) on how to design assignments, equity and inclusion considerations, and tips on how to talk to students about AI and ChatGPT. In the near future, the Ed Tech Committee will be offering more resources and training opportunities to faculty and staff on AI, and ChatGPT.