

## ChatGPT for Students

*Please be aware that information will change as Madonna University updates their policies in regards to ChatGPT, and that this document will be updated as that information becomes available.*

Madonna University is currently working to create a standardized ChatGPT policy. In the meantime, individual professors may have different policies in their syllabi. The basic rule of thumb, however, is that unless your professor has specifically said students can use ChatGPT, then it is an academic violation to use ChatGPT in your essays. Many professors are willing to allow OpenAI use in moderation, as editing help, or as a rhetorical experiment. However, OpenAI must be sourced in these situations.

Madonna's current policy on ChatGPT is the following: **Any use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) not authorized by the instructor will be considered a violation of the Scholastic Integrity and the Honor Code Pledge.**

### **What does this mean?**

Artificial Intelligence (AI) counts as many things, and so it may not always be clear what your professor means when they say AI is not permitted in class. Does it include Grammarly? Microsoft Word's spellcheck feature? What about the Tom March Thesis Builder, which the Madonna University Writing Center promotes, or even Google, which now uses AI?

For most of your professors, all of these things are fine, even if they do fall under the umbrella of "AI." What professors *don't* want is to receive papers written by ChatGPT/AI, for multiple reasons:

- It counts as an academic integrity violation
- You (the student) don't show if you have learned anything from the class you paid for
- It's insulting to professors to be asked to read, comment on, and grade work by a chatbot

### **Academic Integrity**

I'm sure you've heard a lot about academic integrity from your high school teachers, your professors, your UNV 1020 class, and even the Writing Center. We like to talk a lot about it!

Academic integrity boils down to the idea that you, and you alone, are responsible for your work, and that you did it in an ethical and responsible manner. You cited all your sources and gave credit where credit is due. You didn't have your friend write it, or ask a computer to do it, because you take responsibility for your education.

### **Myth: ChatGPT Will Save Me Time**

Whenever I find plagiarism in a student paper, I have to send an e-mail asking the student to come to my office and talk. I invariably get the following response: “Ugh, I do not have time for this!”

This is a common concern of students, and one that makes ChatGPT seem just that more appealing. You’re busy; you have 18 credits, a sport, a job, a family, friends, maybe even a significant other you’d like to see more than once a month. Isn’t it easier to take a few hours off your plate and have ChatGPT write your essay for you?

However, this is a misconception. ChatGPT will not save you time in the long run. When your professors find out you’re using ChatGPT, you will be called into more meetings, get sent more e-mails, assigned mandatory tutoring, and potentially still fail the assignment. But you are also going to lose out on valuable learning which will help you down the road.

It is also important to note here that ChatGPT is often wrong. For students looking to save time, turning in assignments that ChatGPT wrote will mean being called in, again, to more meetings, as professors will assume—fairly, in this case—that you did not do, or did not understand, the reading. It is far easier to take the time to do the assignment well, than to rely on ChatGPT and end up paying for it with extra tutoring and the repercussions of violating the Academic Honesty Policy.

### **Why Do I Need to Learn This/Do This When ChatGPT Could Do It?**

Madonna University is a proud liberal arts college. Our goal is to expand on your high school education and offer you opportunities you will not be able to get anywhere else, and continue giving you chances to make new experiences and learn things that you might not independently have sought out. Therefore, Madonna University students take a lot of general education classes that, to some students, seem pointless.

For these students, taking a core curriculum class might feel insulting; a waste not only of time, but of money. However, these classes are meant to help broaden your knowledge of the world around you. Taking these classes will make you a more well-rounded individual—and that’s something employers *want*. Being able to chat about books, history, politics, the environment, scientific breakthroughs, and talk up your Spanish or dance class makes you seem like a better candidate than someone who can only talk about their field. However, using ChatGPT means you miss out on all of this.

## **Using ChatGPT Responsibly**

That said, some professors will incorporate ChatGPT into their lesson plans and assignments. Madonna University wants to prepare you for your future, and like it or not, ChatGPT is going to be a part of it. We want to ensure that you know how to use it ethically, responsibly, and in a way that will not land you on the nine o'clock news.

If a professor allows you to use ChatGPT, make sure you follow all the requirements of the assignment, such as including screenshots of your conversation with ChatGPT, or whatever else might be required. You will also want to make sure you are sourcing ChatGPT, and identifying what you wrote versus what the technology produced. Here is how to source ChatGPT in APA and MLA formats.

## **How to Source ChatGPT in APA Format**

*Reference citation:*

OpenAI. (2023). ChatGPT (Mar 14 version) [Large language model].  
<https://chat.openai.com/chat>

*In-text citations:*

(OpenAI, 2023).

## **How to Source ChatGPT in MLA Format**

Unlike APA, MLA does not recognize AI as an author. You would therefore proceed as if the information ChatGPT provided comes from a website with an anonymous author, and place the title of the chat first.

“Title of chat with AI” prompt. ChatGPT. Day Month Version, OpenAI, Day Month Year accessed, chat.openai.com/chat

“Describe the themes of Christopher Marlowe’s play *Doctor Faustus*” prompt. ChatGPT. 13 Feb. version, OpenAI, 13 Nov. 2023, chat.openai.com/chat

In-text citations would place the abbreviated title in quotation marks (“Describe the themes”).