Geneva College Online Degree Programs (ODP)
FAQ: Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Academic Writing

Q: Where can I find Geneva's Policy on Academic Honesty?

A: We encourage you to refer to the ODP Student Handbook for details on Geneva's Policy on Academic Honesty.

Q: How is Geneva's ODP monitoring and flagging AI use?

A: Any student taking an online class in Geneva's Moodle LMS will submit written assignments through an integration with Turnitin. In addition to the Similarity Report, which monitors for potential instances of more traditional plagiarism (i.e., presenting someone else's ideas or work as one's own), Turnitin also provides an AI Writing Indicator score that suggests the overall percentage of a submission that may have been generated by AI writing tools, such as ChatGPT. *(Note: To help avoid false positives, Turnitin does not show AI Writing Indicator scores for submissions in which the model detects less than 20% of the content is AI-generated.)* The indicator further links to a report that highlights the text segments that Turnitin's model predicts were written by AI. Note that only instructors/administrators can see the AI Writing Indicator score in the Turnitin Feedback Studio; however, instructors are asked to share the score/report with a student if his/her paper is flagged for potential AI misuse.

For more information on Turnitin's AI Writing Indicator, review Turnitin's AI Writing Detection Capabilities FAQs page.

Q: How does the Turnitin AI Writing Indicator work?

A: The AI detection tool works by detecting differences in word probability; Turnitin's classifiers are adept to word probability sequences of human writers. Essentially, AI content written by Large Language Models (LLMs) will generate sequences of words in a highly consistent and predictable manner; in contrast, human writing tends to be more inconsistent and idiosyncratic. Turnitin's AI detector breaks a submission into segments of text, and then those segments are overlapped with each other to capture sentences in context. The segments are run against the AI detection model, and each sentence is given a score between 0 and 1 to determine whether it's written by a human or by AI. If the model determines the sentence was not written by AI, the score is 0; if the entirety of the sentence is generated by AI, the score is 1. Finally, using the average scores of all the segments within the document, the model generates an overall prediction of how much text in the submission is believed to have been generated by AI.

For more information, review "How do Turnitin's AI writing detection capabilities work?" from Turnitin's FAQ page.

Q: What is flagged by Turnitin's AI Writing Indicator?

A: The first iteration of Turnitin's AI writing detection capabilities is focused on long-form writing and has been trained to detect models including GPT-3, GPT-3.5, and variants. It can also detect other AI writing tools that are based on these models such as ChatGPT. Turnitin's detector is **not** tuned to target Grammarly-generated spelling, grammar, and punctuation modifications to content but rather other AI content written by Large Language Models (LLMs) such as GPT-3.5. Writing assistance tools that provide minor grammar corrections are usually acceptable to use when editing/proofreading assignments. However, content generated by Grammarly's generative AI-powered features, including draft generation, paraphrasing, summarizing, and other features, will likely be flagged as AI-generated. Furthermore, use of these tools is *not* acceptable under Geneva's policy.

Finally, please note that false positives are always a possibility in AI models, though Turnitin's false positive rate remains less than 1%. To avoid potential incidence of false positives, no score or highlights are attributed for AI detection scores in the 1% to 19% range. For more information, please review Turnitin's AI Writing Detection Capabilities FAQs page.

Q: I use Grammarly (or another similar writing tool) to proofread and edit my assignments. Is this considered a breach of academic integrity?

A: At Geneva, part of our educational mission is to ensure that students learn how to think critically, structure ideas, and write well on their own. As such, using a writing assistance tool that provides minor grammar corrections (e.g., spelling, punctuation) is *usually* acceptable. Examples of such tools include Grammarly's Grammar Checker and Microsoft Word's built-in Editor tool. However, using a writing assistance tool that rewrites sentences or paragraphs, summarizes or paraphrases ideas, or generates content is **not** acceptable. Examples of these tools range from MS Word add-ins (e.g., ChatGPT for MS Word, Autopilot) to advanced editing tools (e.g., Grammarly's AI Sentence Rewriter) to websites (e.g., ChatGPT).

*Note: As answered above, Turnitin's detector is **not** tuned to target Grammarly-generated spelling, grammar, and punctuation modifications to student-written content but rather other AI-generated content written by LLMs such as GPT-3.5. For more information, please review Turnitin's AI Writing Detection Capabilities FAQs page.*

Q: Is the Turnitin AI Writing Indicator the same as the Similarity score?

A: No. The AI Writing Indicator and the Similarity scores are independent and do not influence each other. The Similarity score indicates the percentage of matching or highly similar text found in the submitted document when compared to Turnitin's comprehensive content database. High Similarity scores can be indicative of more traditional plagiarism concerns (e.g., using the same assignment for multiple classes, misattributing another person's work as one's own, lack of proper citations, overreliance on direct quotations, etc.). The AI writing detection percentage, on the other hand, shows the overall percentage of text in a submission that Turnitin's AI writing detection model predicts was generated by AI writing tools. For more information, please review Turnitin's AI Writing Detection Capabilities FAQs page.

Q: Do different instructors have different policies on AI?

A: No. All instructors in Geneva College's Online Degree Programs follow the same Academic Honesty Policy, misconduct reporting procedures, and sanction recommendations as given to them by Geneva College ODP administration.

Q: What is the process for detection and review of suspected AI misuse?

A: ODP instructors monitor Turnitin AI Writing Indicator scores for each of their students' submissions for each assignment submitted through Moodle's integration with Turnitin. When an instructor sees an AI Writing Indicator percentage at or above 25%, he/she is instructed to notify ODP administration before contacting the student so that ODP staff can further review the assignment in question and provide guidance for next steps. **ODP policy is to investigate any student paper with a Turnitin AI Writing Indicator percentage at or above 25%.**

When ODP administration is notified, a student's flagged submission is run through at least two other AI detection tools (e.g., zerogpt.com, gptzero.me) to compare the results to the Turnitin AI Writing Indicator score. In cases in which additional information may be useful, ODP staff utilize additional AI detection tools, test various portions of the paper, and/or review different methods of submission (e.g., pasted text v. uploaded document).

If the results of this review show consistency across AI detection tools (e.g., other AI detection tools also return results of 25% or more, specific portions of text are consistently flagged, etc.), ODP staff will guide the instructor on a response and next steps, depending on severity of AI misuse and the respective student's number of previous violations (or lack thereof). Additionally, ODP administration will record the violation on the student's record in the student information system in order to track all Academic Honesty Policy violations throughout the entirety of the student's time in the ODP. For details on sanctions for AI policy violations, please see the next FAQ.

If the results of the review do **not** show consistency across AI detection tools, the instructor is advised to proceed with grading the original paper without penalty and no further action is taken.

Q: What are the repercussions for inappropriately using AI at Geneva?

A: As is the case with more traditional plagiarism violations, all AI misuse warnings and policy violations are recorded on the student's record in the student information system so that these warnings/violations can be tracked from class to class and appropriate sanctions can be recommended.

For AI policy violations, ODP administration ask the instructor to bring the AI Writing Indicator percentage to the student's attention by sharing the AI report from Turnitin and providing a warning about the misuse of AI-generated text in academic writing. Particularly for a first instance of AI misuse, instructors are encouraged to ask more about the student's writing process and what tools the student may have used when writing the paper (see this FAQ for more details) and, if warranted, to use the conversation as an educational opportunity to help the student understand what is acceptable and what is not when it comes to proofreading/editing tools.

For a first instance of AI misuse, if the student is unwilling or unable to submit proof that he/she did not use AI tools to write the paper, the student will be given an initial warning and will be required to resubmit the assignment without the help of AI writing tools by specifically addressing the portion(s) of the paper that was flagged by Turnitin. This first resubmission attempt does **not** include a penalty; students are given **one** resubmission attempt without penalty. The resubmission must generate an AI Writing Indicator percentage less than 25% in order to be acceptable. Students are encouraged to run their own paper through the free AI writing detection websites before resubmitting. If the student does not resubmit the paper, he/she would ultimately receive a zero on the assignment.

For a second reported instance of AI misuse, the student will be issued a formal warning and be required to resubmit the assignment in question with a lowered final grade (automatic 10% deduction from the assignment grade). After the first two warnings, subsequent instances of AI misuse will be treated as formal policy violations and sanctions escalate accordingly, starting with earning a zero on the assignment in question. For a second formal policy violation, a student will fail the class. Further AI policy violations may result in a failing grade for a course and/or suspension or dismissal from the institution.

NOTE: Students are always given the opportunity to provide proof that the assignment in question is his/her own and that he/she did not use AI to generate content. See this FAQ for more details.

Q: My assignment was flagged by Turnitin for AI-generated content, but I did not use AI. Why?

A: The current AI detection tools are not infallible; there is always some risk of false positives (i.e., incorrectly identifying human-written content as AI-generated). However, Turnitin aims to keep the false positive rate under 1% for documents with over 20% of AI writing. To avoid potential incidence of false positives, Turnitin does **not** show any score/highlights for AI Writing Indicator scores in the 1% to 19% range. When AI is detected below the 20% threshold in the report, it is indicated in the instructor/administrator view of the Turnitin Feedback Studio with an asterisk (*%) and no percentage is attributed. Furthermore, Geneva's policy is to only review reported instances in which the AI Writing Indicator score is 25% or higher.

False positives could include lists without a lot of structural variation, text that literally repeats itself, or text that has been paraphrased without developing new ideas. In a longer document with a mix of authentic writing and AI-generated text, it can be difficult to determine where the AI writing begins and original writing ends. In shorter documents with only a few hundred words, the prediction will be mostly "all or nothing," meaning some text that is a mix of AI-generated and original content could be flagged as entirely AI-generated. For more information, please review Turnitin's AI Writing Detection Capabilities FAQs page.

Q: How can I prove that I am not using AI if my submission is flagged by Turnitin?

A: Due to the evolving nature of AI and the available detection tools, the Geneva College ODP understand that instances of suspected AI misuse are nuanced and that detection tools are not always accurate. In general, students are always given the opportunity to provide proof that the work in question is their own and that they did **not** use AI writing assistance tools.

If a student's assignment is flagged and consistency is found across other detectors, the student can submit proof to demonstrate his/her writing process for the assignment. Proof must be submitted within 48 hours of the instructor's request and may include, but is not limited to, outline(s) of the assignment material, written draft(s), or screenshot(s) of the file version history in Microsoft Word.

In particular, a file version history may show if the student saved several drafts of the paper and/or if the student worked on the file over an extended period of time. Furthermore, if a screenshot of the file version history does not provide sufficient information, the student may be asked to restore a previous version(s) of the assignment and to provide the restored version(s) to ODP administration in order to show the writing progression of the paper.

Accordingly, the ODP strongly recommend that all ODP students use Microsoft 365 and OneDrive (provided free of charge to all current Geneva students) to draft, write, and save written assignments in MS Word (log into myGeneva for training resources and download instructions). To learn more about file version history and restoring previous versions of a file, please review this article.