Update on A.I. at Villanova

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Faculty Colleagues,

Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) has emerged as a transformative force profoundly influencing our daily lives. It is becoming increasingly prevalent and A.I.-generated material is reshaping how students learn, faculty teach, and businesses operate. Employers are now expecting college graduates to have a basic understanding of these tools and will most likely be using A.I. software in their operations. Villanova is adapting and learning to use this technology appropriately in our teaching, research, and business operations. As such, we wanted to provide a brief update on A.I. at Villanova and offer some resources to help you learn more on this topic.

To date, the University has provided requirements and guidance on A.I. to Villanovans through revisions to the Code of Academic Integrity, guidelines for faculty around A.I. generators in their courses, and guidelines for students regarding the responsible academic use of A.I. generators. **Please note: Information uploaded to an open (free) A.I. system does not remain private and can be shared with others. At this time, no Villanova data is permitted to be uploaded into open (free) A.I. systems and all data governance standards and policies related to safeguarding university data are required to be followed (located within the Data Governance webpage under "Standards and Policies").**

A.I. in Teaching and Learning
- The University is exploring a screening tool for A.I.-generated material. While such tools have limitations, they can be an excellent deterrent for academic integrity issues.
- Departments, academic programs, and colleges are encouraged to develop discipline-appropriate ways to teach students about this technology and how to utilize these tools ethically and properly. You can help students refine their core skills of critical thinking, ethical reasoning, and digital literacy by teaching them to appropriately use generative A.I and analyze the output.

A.I. in Research
- A survey was sent to faculty concerning A.I. in research and plans are in development to provide requirements as well as guidance around its proper use. No private/confidential information or intellectual property may be uploaded into open (free) A.I. systems.
- Each funding agency, publisher, and others are developing their own rules around generative A.I. Please be sure to keep up with and follow the requirements in your field.

Resources to Learn More about A.I.
- VITAL and VIRS are planning to offer events in the spring featuring Villanova faculty experts to help guide conversations about A.I.
- Villanova has an enterprise site license for Microsoft's Copilot chat application, formerly Bing Chat for Enterprise, which is built off of Open A.I. Currently only faculty have access, but we are considering opening it up to others. Information uploaded to Copilot remains private and is not used to train the base model.
- Faculty are encouraged to use LinkedIn Learning for comprehensive information about A.I. generators and prompt engineering

- A newly released professional certificate called [Career Essentials in Generative AI](#) was created by Microsoft & LinkedIn. It's about 4 hours of content and covers subjects like models of AI, machine learning, the difference between search engines and reasoning engines, and ethics of AI.
- There are several [LinkedIn Learning videos on prompt engineering](#) (how to give the right inputs to get the desired outputs).

The University is continuing to refine its approach to A.I. with planned initiatives including instituting a university-wide A.I. advisory board and a centralized website to keep the community up to date on this continuously evolving technology.

We encourage you to stay informed and bring a flexible mindset to the A.I. conversations.

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