

COLLEGE OF LAW ETHICAL AI USAGE POLICY FOR USASK LAW STUDENTS

(Adopted by Faculty Council on August 31, 2026)

1. Purpose

This policy establishes guidelines for the responsible and ethical use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools by law students at the College of Law, University of Saskatchewan. It ensures that AI supports learning without compromising academic integrity, competency development or ethics.

2. Guiding Principles

2.1 Integrity and Honesty

Law students must:

- Submit only their own intellectual work unless explicitly permitted otherwise.
- Clearly disclose any use of AI tools in assignments and assessments.
- Avoid misrepresenting AI-generated content as original work.

2.2 Competence and Skill Development

Students must:

- Use AI as a **support tool**, not a substitute for learning.
- Ensure they understand and can independently reproduce any AI-assisted work.
- Recognize that over-reliance on AI undermines legal training and professional readiness.

2.3 Accountability

- Students remain fully responsible for the accuracy, quality, and legality of all submitted work, regardless of AI involvement.
- Errors, misinformation, or fabricated citations generated by AI must be verified and corrected.

3. Permitted Uses of AI

AI may be used in ways **expressly authorized by the instructor**.

4. Prohibited Uses of AI

The following uses are **strictly prohibited**:

- Submitting AI-generated memos, assignments, papers or other drafting as original work without disclosure of AI usage.
- Using AI during closed-book exams or secured exams, or other assessments unless explicitly permitted otherwise.
- Using AI to generate and fabricate case law, statutes, secondary sources or citations.
- Representing AI-generated legal analysis as independent reasoning
- Claiming false authorship or originality
- Inputting confidential, privileged, or sensitive information into non-secure AI tools
- Using AI to generate misleading, harmful, or unethical content
- Inputting copyrighted materials (including instructor slides, hand-outs, materials) into AI systems that will use that material for training or learning purposes

5. Disclosure Requirements

When AI is used, students must:

- Include a statement such as:

“AI tools (e.g., CoPilot, ChatGPT, Claude Ai) were used to assist with [for example research/grammar/outline]. All analysis and final content were independently reviewed and verified.”

- Be specific about:
 - What tool was used
 - How it was used
 - The extent of reliance

6. Verification and Accuracy

Given the importance of accuracy, students must:

- **Independently verify:**
 - Case law
 - Statutory references
 - Legal principles
- Cross-check sources using:
 - Official legal databases (e.g., CanLII, Westlaw, LexisNexis)
- Avoid reliance on AI for authoritative legal citations without subsequent confirmation of accuracy.

7. Confidentiality and Data Protection

Students must:

- Only use AI tools approved by USask
- Comply with legal ethical duties regarding confidentiality and privilege
- **Never input:**
 - Client information
 - Case files
 - Personal or sensitive data
- Understand that AI systems may store or reuse prompts

8. Professional Responsibility

As future legal professionals, students must:

- Use AI consistently with **legal ethics rules** (e.g., duty of competence, confidentiality, candor)
- Recognize that improper AI use may:
 - Undermine trust in the legal profession
 - Lead to disciplinary consequences in academic and professional settings

9. Faculty and Institutional Expectations

- Individual instructors may:
 - Restrict or prohibit AI use in specific assignments
 - Require detailed disclosures or process documentation
- Students must follow all course-specific AI policies in addition to this general policy

10. Consequences of Violations

Violations of this policy may result in:

- Academic penalties (e.g., grade reduction, failure, misconduct charges)
- Disciplinary action under the USask *Regulations on Student Academic Misconduct* <https://governance.usask.ca/documents/2022-regulations-on-student-academic-misconduct.pdf>
- Potential impact on future bar admission (character and fitness considerations)

11. Best Practices for Ethical AI Use

Students are encouraged to:

- Use AI only as permitted
- Maintain critical thinking and independent analysis
- Keep records and an inventory of all AI interactions when relevant