MONTANA
UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Montana University System AI Task Force Report

Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education

The Opportunities and Challenges of AI for the Montana University System

AI should support students completing programs, earning credentials, transferring, and getting jobs. It can enhance teaching and learning, strengthen student support, improve administrative efficiency, and accelerate research—if implemented with appropriate safeguards, if accessible to our institutions, and if we take proactive steps to mitigate against potential ethical, financial, or geographical AI divides.

Core Principles for AI Use in the Montana University System

- Data Privacy and Security
- Transparency and Accountability
- Bias Awareness and Mitigation
- Human Discretion
- Protection of Intellectual Property
- Academic Integrity
- Restricted Uses
- Use of Approved and Non-Approved Tools

Recommended System Actions

Training

1. Provide system-wide AI literacy training for students, faculty, and staff

2. Support campus pilots of third-party vendor credentials for upskilling

Procurement

3. Establish cooperative purchasing / master contracts

4. Develop centralized inventory of vetted AI software

5. Coordinate optional campus implementation of ChatMT.ai

Instruction

6. Develop & curate Canvas Commons training and resources for faculty

7. Host webinars on AI literacy and use cases across functional areas

8. Convene discipline-specific faculty groups for shared policies and assessment

Operations

9. Collaborate with institution leaders to develop, prioritize, and pursue AI strategies that enhance MUS operations across functional units

Campus Essential Practices and Considerations:
Domain 1: Procurement and Software

- **Standardized Due Diligence:** AI vendor should meet the requirements of established assessment frameworks for data security and accessibility and standard MUS contract terms for data protection.
- **Risk-Based Procurement:** AI software should be evaluated based on the sensitivity of data involved, the scale of use, and potential institutional impact.
- **Purpose-Driven Acquisition:** AI tools should be procured only when they support clearly defined instructional or operational needs and do not introduce unnecessary risk.

Campus Essential Practices and Considerations:
Domain 2: Instruction

Instructional use of AI should:

- Support authentic student learning rather than replace essential cognitive or disciplinary work;
- Preserve faculty authority over course design, assessment, and instructional methods;
- Promote transparency, accountability, and academic honesty;
- Advance equity, access, and inclusion for all students; and
- Remain adaptable as technologies, pedagogies, and disciplinary standards evolve.

Campus Essential Practices and Considerations

Domain 3: Research

Use of GenAI in research should:

- Uphold research integrity and scholarly responsibility;
- Preserve human accountability for all research outputs;
- Align with disciplinary norms and sponsor requirements;
- Protect confidential, proprietary, and human-subjects data; and
- Remain transparent, reviewable, and adaptable as technologies evolve.