

Colorado College Generative AI Institutional Philosophy

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Introduction

Colorado College's Generative AI Philosophy establishes a values-driven foundation for how the institution will thoughtfully explore, evaluate, and integrate emerging AI capabilities. Grounded in the liberal arts tradition, the philosophy recognizes a diversity of perspectives—from cautious engagement to full adoption—and affirms the importance of critical reflection, responsible use, and continuous learning.

By emphasizing critical AI literacy, educational investment, institutional safeguards, and adaptive practices, the college aims to empower its community to navigate GenAI with creativity, integrity, and purpose while aligning innovation with the mission and long-term strategic direction of the institution.

Institutional Context and Perspective on GenAI

Reflective of the broader cultural landscape, our CC community holds the full range of views on GenAI, placing enthusiasm and caution into shared perspective. Accordingly, we honor and value a full spectrum of approaches to GenAI from non-use to full integration across different disciplines, offices, and contexts. Our approaches derive from critical reflection and responsibility grounded in our disciplinary and institutional values.

Aligning GenAI with the Liberal Arts Mission

At Colorado College, “we challenge students, one block at a time, to develop those habits of intellect and imagination that will prepare them for learning and leadership throughout their lives.” In this spirit, we seek to empower our community to thoughtfully and imaginatively navigate Generative AI (GenAI) informed by our distinctive liberal arts ethos, commitment to learning and discovery, commitment to sustainability, and dedication to equity and inclusion. The Block Plan allows our students to engage deeply with different modes of inquiry guided by the needs of a given topic and the expertise of a given instructor. Teaching and learning at CC is about equipping our students to be engaged global citizens, valuing the process as well as the product, and embracing iteration as we discover a variety of routes to a given solution. Our campus-wide exploration of GenAI follows similarly nuanced paths.

A Culture of Inquiry, Experimentation, and Iteration

By thoughtfully emphasizing critical AI literacy, we will foster critical thinking, experimentation, and discourse about this rapidly developing technology. As we explore GenAI, we will learn from every outcome, embracing diverse perspectives and a broad spectrum of applications to accelerate growth, deepen understanding, and continuously evolve our approach.

Guiding Principles for Responsible GenAI Adoption

- **Education:** We will provide ongoing educational and professional development to inform our community about GenAI—not only how it works, but also its impacts, in both principle and practice.
- **Respect:** We support informed, nuanced, and conscientious decision-making about GenAI use and non-use by faculty, staff, and students, within specific academic and administrative contexts when accompanied by articulated divisional practices for proper citation or disclosure.
- **Responsibility:** We prioritize the protection of information, intellectual property, and privacy in all GenAI applications and will maintain robust safeguards to protect our community members.
- **Effectiveness:** We will assess and adjust our practices based on emerging possibilities and community feedback to remain an innovative and effective institution.

Commitment to Strategic and Ethical Integration

This philosophy statement was not written or edited using GenAI. It was crafted in response to the need for campus-wide guidance on this emerging technology and as part of a comprehensive strategy that aligns with the mission and values of CC as we set a course for how GenAI will fit into our future as an institution.