

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

Purpose	Date	Reviewed by	Approved By
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Purpose

The Royal Architectural Institute of Canada recognizes that Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly changing the context in which architecture is practiced, taught, and experienced. AI tools are already being used across the built environment for research, concept generation, visualization, documentation support, data analysis, sustainability evaluation, project administration, and other tasks. However, RAIC affirms that architecture is a human-centred profession in the service of the public interest.

The RAIC Syllabus program is committed to graduating professionals capable of validating information, exercising critical judgment, protecting the interests of clients and the public, and ensuring that decisions affecting the built environment are informed by human expertise, context, and values. While AI can do amazing things, over-reliance on AI can prevent students from developing the necessary skills, such as critical thinking, problem-solving, storytelling, and creativity. In addition to stunting development, Syllabus students risk data breaches and academic or professional penalties if they use AI unethically.

Definitions

Minimal Use / Basic Assistance Only

Using AI tools for basic grammar correction and spell-checking functions only. Common examples include Grammarly, Microsoft Word Editor, and Copilot. *The use of AI for basic assistance does not require citation or disclosure.*

General Use / Content Assistance

Using AI tools as a sounding board to assist in clarifying challenges and exploring ideas. This may include generating essay topics or using software like Smart Lookup or Copilot to find inspiration and related topics.

This may also extend to using AI tools to structure an essay outline, to understand difficult theory, and aid in searching for relevant information.

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Moderate Use / Content Generation (written)

Using AI tools to develop written content that may either be paraphrased or directly quoted into the final product.

Enhanced Use / Support for Process-based Activities

Using AI-driven statistical analysis tools which interpret complex quantitative tables and provide plain-language interpretations or insight.

This may also include generating creative content, such as image content creation, or using AI tools to create presentations from raw materials.

Integrated Use / Support for Complex Tasks

Using AI tools with the intention of advancing knowledge and building skills. This involves using AI to conduct research and summarize scholarly articles, initiate tasks such as building drafts and providing text suggestions, troubleshoot problems, and perform complex calculations or data modelling.

From here, AI can be used to provide Interactive Learning. AI tools will provide an assessment of users' skills and a customized learning plan to align their progress with predetermined learning outcomes. The expectation is that the AI assessments and recommendations are shared with a qualified instructor to validate and expand.

Plagiarism

In all aspects of the RAIC Syllabus program, using AI will be considered plagiarism unless:

- a) Explicit permission for the level of AI has been obtained before use. See [Permission](#) for more information, *and*
- b) The use of AI has been properly cited. See [Citation](#) for more information.

Per the [Principles of Conduct, Misconduct & Disciplinary Actions](#), plagiarism is the submission or presentation of work as if it were the individual's own work, done expressly for that purpose, when it is not. A single offence of plagiarism may result in either disciplinary probation, suspension, or expulsion from the RAIC Syllabus program.

Permission

Guiding Principle

The RAIC Syllabus does not have a blanket allowance for the use of AI that encompasses the breadth of Syllabus activities, from applications to coursework and CERB Submissions. It is the student's responsibility to review relevant directives, such as course descriptions or submission instructions, to confirm whether and how AI can be used. If the use of AI is not addressed in directive information, then it should be assumed that the only pre-approved use of AI is minimal, for basic assistance only.

Program Application

One of the requirements of the RAIC Syllabus program application is a 500-word essay. We are assessing the applicant's ability to structure and convey an idea through writing. As such, AI may only be used for Minimal Use (as per definitions above).

Syllabus Courses

Regardless of whether a student has registered for a History, Theory, Technical (H/T/T) course through Athabasca University or the Syllabus Design Studio courses through RAIC, they will receive a course outline. It is the student's responsibility to review this document and adhere to any guidelines regarding the use of AI in that course.

If the use of AI is not addressed in the course outline, then it should be assumed that the only permissible use of AI is Minimal Use.

In Design Studio courses, Syllabus Coordinators may provide permission to use AI beyond the defined allowance in the course outline (or the default of minimal use) on a case-by-case basis. However, this permission may only extend to the following examples and only for the occasional use of AI within an academic setting.

- General Use / Content Assistance: clarifying challenges, exploring ideas and finding inspiration or related topics, and structuring written analysis.
- Moderate Use / Content Generation (written): generating written content only, which may then be directly quoted or paraphrased in the final work.

If a studio coordinator grants student(s) permission to use AI beyond basic assistance, the permission must be in writing and explicitly define the allowed level of use.

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Scholarship Applications

Whether a syllabus-exclusive scholarship opportunity or broader scholarships and bursaries for students in architecture, students must adhere to ethical academic standards when representing themselves as a student of the RAIC Syllabus program.

When the permissible use of AI is not disclosed in submission instructions, it is the responsibility of the student to obtain permission from the scholarship hosts regarding the use of AI beyond Minimal Use. In the case of the Kyoshi Matsuzaki scholarship award, they would speak to the RAIC Foundation.

Canadian Experience Record Books (CERB)

Students of the RAIC Syllabus program must adhere to the official policies of using AI as directed by the Regulating Organizations of Architecture in Canada (ROAC), their provincial or territorial jurisdiction-specific guidelines (Appendix B), and any restrictions or requirements as set by their workplace (confidentiality - generative AI models do not protect sensitive information like client details and unpublished project phases).

Students must remember that if they use AI tools to track hours or draft summaries, they must carefully review the content to ensure the accurate representation of experience. CERB Logs are a legal record attesting to your professional experience. Using AI tools to fabricate experience is not only strictly prohibited but also demonstrates a significant breach of ethical behaviour towards the profession.

Declaration & Citation

It is the responsibility of the student to research the most up-to-date guidelines for declaring and citing the use of AI in an academic setting.

Declaration

Within the body of work, declarations must address the areas where AI was used to influence or generate content. At a minimum, these statements must include:

- A brief description of the level of AI used, and
- Measures taken to ensure accuracy.

Citation

Common citation styles include the American Psychological Association (APA), the Modern Language Association (MLA), and the Chicago Manual of Style (Chicago). At a minimum, citations must include:

- AI tool employed,
- Link to the specific AI thread for which content or ideas were generated.