

Screenwriting Policy On the use of AI - Final

Screenwriting Policy on Student Use of AI

The screenwriting program at DePaul is committed to fostering the unique voices and perspectives of up-and-coming screenwriters, as evidenced by our motto: “Learn your craft, find your voice, make your mark.” Writers should be aware that AI (generative artificial intelligence) is a tool. It does not create; it aggregates and repurposes previously published content. As such, AI may facilitate the story development process, but cannot replace what each individual writer brings to a story: their distinctive point of view and voice. We understand that students may wish to use AI tools to aid in the development and early drafts of screenplays and screenwriting assignments. To do so with academic integrity, students must understand and adhere to the following:

- Developing ideas, creative problem-solving, honing one’s voice, and engaging in rewriting are at the core of the writing process, and the use of AI is not a replacement for enhancing these fundamental skills.
- Acknowledge your use of AI. For any assignment that you complete using AI, you must cite your use of AI and include a paragraph that explains 1) what AI tool you used, 2) what prompts you used, and 3) a clear explanation of how it helped you engage in the writing process.
- AI-assisted work may be accepted as part of the development of any project (including ideation, character development, world-building, and outlining), but the entirety of your screenplay/writing assignment must be authored by you.
- AI makes mistakes. You are responsible for any errors or omissions made by the AI tool.
- Failure to adhere to these guidelines will be considered a violation of DePaul’s Academic Integrity Policy.

Screenwriting Policy on Faculty Use AI

The screenwriting faculty offer unique perspectives and expertise on the art of screenwriting. While generative AI tools make it possible to automate time-consuming tasks like creating lectures and providing feedback on student work, we vow to hold ourselves to the same standards as our students. Therefore, we commit to restricting the use of AI in the following ways:

- 1) All feedback on student work will be generated by a human. Faculty will not upload student work to any LLM (Large Language Model) or equivalent in order to generate evaluation or feedback.
- 2) The substantive educational content of all instructional materials such as syllabi, lectures, lecture decks, and writing assignments will be created by the instructor.
- 3) If AI is used for small, task-specific purposes, such as image-generation, faculty will acknowledge its use. Course materials supplemented by AI will include citations that address what tools and prompts were used.

Essentially, we acknowledge that, as writers, generative AI can be useful in areas outside our expertise, such as image- and design-generation, and that machine learning tools that help with spelling and grammar can streamline our processes. Beyond that, we remain committed to exercising our unique perspectives, knowledge, and experience to facilitate the creative autonomy of emerging screenwriters.