



ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

May 13, 2025

Dear Academic Affairs Colleagues,

A thought for faculty heading off for the summer: **AI IS THE NEW NORMAL. WE HAVE TO CHANGE.**

Generative AI will be as ubiquitous as the internet soon. Students are using it just like they use computers and calculators and, yes, the internet, all tools that were once considered threats to academic integrity. The burden is on us to develop new ways of assessing learning.

Students may no longer need to know how to organize an essay because AI can do that for them, but they still need to know how to think, how to identify good arguments, and what constitutes legitimate evidence. They need to master bodies of knowledge and demonstrate that mastery by expressing it cogently. So how can we shape our assignments to do that? I don't have all the answers, but I do know it is time we take seriously the changes that AI presents to our old model of teaching.

At its heart, teaching is about empowering the next generation to lead lives of purpose and meaning. We know that comes from courses that involve lots of human interaction, hands on and problem-based learning, metacognition, and challenges that allow students to accomplish more than they thought possible. Our [AI Responsible Use Guidelines](#) offer some places to start, pedagogically.

If you are feeling overwhelmed by all there is to know and be able to do with AI, the attached article from the *Chronicle of Higher Education* offers a modest and sustainable path to becoming more versed in generative AI. Two of our outstanding Lecturers, Emese Ilyes (PSY) and Cam Silver (POL), contributed to [CUNY's Building Bridge of Knowledge](#), OERs that promote students' ethical and responsible use of AI. I know we have faculty thinking deeply and creatively about how to use AI to students' benefit. Let's create community around this issue!

The College continues to offer workshops and seminars in teaching with and around AI; we want to support and incentivize your learning. Coming up in June, the Teaching and Learning Center is hosting a paid faculty seminar in Critical Thinking, AI, & The Bloom Revised Taxonomy. Apply here:

<https://forms.gle/z56v2pwYzdunHjqR8>

Through every other industrial and technological revolution before us, our predecessors have adapted college learning experiences to continue to cultivate human potential. I know we will too. But not by teaching in the same ways that we were taught, or even how we taught just two years ago. We must and we will evolve.

Allison



John Jay Designated National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense

Congratulations to the faculty of the Mathematics and Computer Science Department for earning this prestigious designation from the National Security Association. Institutions that receive a CAE-C designation have met the rigorous requirements and commit to producing cybersecurity professionals who will reduce vulnerabilities in the national infrastructure.

Not only are John Jay students candidates for national intelligence careers, the College is also now eligible to compete for previously out of reach grants. US Government departments and agencies actively engage with the CAE in Cybersecurity Community to advance the state of cybersecurity education in the nation. Together, the Community and its government partners set priorities, acquire funding, and find ways to actively engage and collaborate.

Don't Touch That Button

I hope you saw Dean Sidman's email asking politely that you **"please NOT import grades from Brightspace this semester."** Given that we have not had time to test and create a protocol around the button, we are clear that using it now will create tricky problems that will be difficult to undo.

[Please see the entire message here](#)

Thanks for your help in ensuring a smooth end of semester for all.

