Missouri State University
Artificial Intelligence Purpose Statement

Advancing Our Public Affairs Mission Through Responsible AI

Institutional Context

Missouri State University is a public, comprehensive institution with a statewide mission in public affairs, whose purpose is to develop educated people. The university's identity is distinguished by its commitment to ethical leadership, cultural competence, and community engagement.

Artificial intelligence is rapidly transforming higher education, the workforce, and public life. As a university committed to developing educated people who are prepared to lead in a complex, technology-driven world, Missouri State has both an opportunity and an obligation to engage with AI in ways that are deliberate, responsible, and aligned with our core mission and values.

Our Purpose

Missouri State University embraces artificial intelligence as a useful tool in service of our public affairs mission — to develop educated people who think critically, lead ethically, and contribute meaningfully to our community. We will harness AI to expand access, advance learning, strengthen research, and improve the effectiveness of our operations; all while placing human judgment and institutional values at the center of every AI-informed decision. Our approach to AI will be responsible and transparent, ensuring that the benefits of this technology extend across our campus, our community, and the citizens we serve statewide.

Guiding Principles

The following six principles guide Missouri State University's engagement with artificial intelligence across all academic, research, and administrative functions:

1. **People First:** AI augments and supports human potential. It does not replace human relationships, judgment, or accountability. Faculty, staff, and students remain at the center of every AI-informed decision.
2. **Responsible Use:** We will deploy AI tools in ways that are useful, meaningful, and consistent with our strategic plans. AI use will be guided by a strong governance framework, data privacy protection, and continuous review.
3. **Academic Integrity & AI Literacy:** AI is changing how people learn, communicate, and solve problems. We will foster campus-wide AI literacy while upholding the standards of honest intellectual work that are fundamental to a university community.
4. **Equitable Access:** We will work to ensure that AI tools, training, and opportunities are broadly accessible for students, faculty, and staff.
5. **Transparency & Trust:** Missouri State will be open about how, when, and why AI is used in institutional processes. We will explain AI-assisted decisions in plain language and maintain channels for community input and accountability.
6. **Continuous Learning & Adaptation:** AI technologies and their societal implications will continue to evolve rapidly. We will regularly review and update our policies, practices, and priorities to remain responsible and future ready.

Institutional Commitments

Missouri State's AI purpose is realized through specific commitments across four core areas:

Teaching & Learning

- **AI-Enriched Curriculum:** Integrate AI literacy and applied AI skills across disciplines, to prepare graduates for an AI-enabled workforce and civic life.
- **Faculty & Instructor Support:** Provide training, resources, and structured guidance so faculty can thoughtfully determine appropriate AI use in their courses and scholarly work.
- **Student Empowerment:** Equip students to use AI tools responsibly, critically evaluate AI-generated content, and understand the use of AI in their fields.
- **Academic Integrity:** Maintain clear, regularly updated guidelines on AI use in coursework, ensuring alignment with the university's standards for honest scholarship.

Research & Scholarship

- **AI-Enabled Discovery:** Support faculty and student researchers in leveraging AI tools to advance scholarship across disciplines; from data analysis and modeling to creative and applied research.
- **Responsible AI Research:** Ensure all AI research is conducted with appropriate institutional review, data governance, and responsible safeguards.
- **Interdisciplinary Collaboration:** Foster cross-disciplinary partnerships that bring together technology, social sciences, humanities, and professional fields to examine AI's broader societal impact.

Operations & Administration

- **Operational Effectiveness:** Leverage AI to improve efficiency, consistency, and quality of administrative services while ensuring that AI recommendations are subject to human review.
- **Data Security & Privacy:** Adopt and enforce strict data governance standards for AI tools, prohibiting the input of sensitive, confidential, or personally identifiable information into unsecured platforms.
- **Approved Tools & Oversight:** Maintain an institutional inventory of vetted, approved AI tools and provide guidance on appropriate use to protect university data and ensure compliance with applicable law and financial stewardship.

Workforce & Community

- **Workforce Readiness:** Partner with regional employers, community organizations, and state agencies to ensure Missouri State graduates have the AI skills needed to thrive in the modern economy.
- **Civic Engagement:** Encourage the university community to engage constructively in public conversations about AI governance, ethics, and societal impact, consistent with our commitment to ethical leadership.

Governance & Implementation

Responsibility for AI governance at Missouri State is shared across Academic Affairs, Information Technology, and institutional leadership, with input from faculty governance, student representation, and the broader campus community.

Key Governance Elements

- The University will oversee the development and regular review of AI-related policies and guidelines, including Acceptable Use guidelines and the Information Assurance policy framework, coordinated through the Offices of the Provost and Information Technology.
- Academic Affairs will lead AI integration into the curriculum, working in partnership with the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning, Faculty Senate, and Student Government Association.
- The Chief Information Officer (CIO) will provide institutional oversight of AI tool procurement, data governance, and cybersecurity standards, in alignment with university policies.
- Information Technology and Information Security policies, and the institutional AI tool inventory will be reviewed no less than annually, with additional reviews triggered by significant changes in technology, regulatory requirements, or institutional priorities.
- All AI use at Missouri State must be consistent with applicable federal and state law, Board of Governors policy, and the university's core institutional values.