AI Policy Statement for PhD Dissertations and MA Papers

(Approved by the Department of History on 01/22/2025)

The Department of History at UIC prohibits the use of generative AI programs for completing a PhD dissertation or an MA paper. Dissertations and MA papers must represent original research, demonstrate independent thinking, and show mastery of a scholarly field in agreement with the academic integrity standards. The arguments and intellectual contributions are required to be the original creations of the author.

1. Students may use non-generative, assistive AI tools to address basic editing typical of standard proofreading. These include spell check, grammar, and punctuation. The use of AI to rewrite the text, create new language or content is prohibited. For example, students are not permitted to upload text into an AI program for the purpose of rewriting or altering the writing style. Commands such as "make the text sound better" or "rewrite using academic language" are strictly forbidden.

2. AI may be used for creating graphs, data analysis, and transcribing audio text from oral interviews, elements that may go into a dissertation, with proper and clear citation.

If AI tools are used as described in 1 and 2, the author must acknowledge their use in the acknowledgement section of the dissertation or MA paper.

Suggested text in the acknowledgments:

This dissertation is an original work of the author. No generative AI programs have been used to complete it.

I have used assistive AI for proofreading purposes.
I have not used assistive AI for proofreading purposes.
I have used AI for creating [insert the type of data illustration such as tables, graphs, etc.]

The student and their advisor will ensure that such statement is provided in the final copy of the dissertation.