

2025 Student Life Survey: Generative AI

The Student Life Survey is administered annually by the Center for the Study of Student Life in the Office of Student Life at The Ohio State University. In spring 2025, this survey was sent to a random sample of 9,000 students at the Columbus campus at The Ohio State University. Approximately 1,258 students participated in the survey for a response rate of 14.0%. The purpose of this report is to examine students' experiences interacting with Generative AI programs. The data are weighted to be representative of the general student population at Ohio State. Chi-squared test of independence was used to test for significance differences in this report.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Approximately **73%** of undergraduates, **73%** of graduate students and **68%** of professional students have utilized Generative AI during their time at Ohio State.
- For both undergraduate and graduate students, the three most common reasons for using Generative AI include:
 - Proofreading writing and grammar (**57%**; **59%**)
 - Gathering information related to academic work (**50%**; **51%**)
 - Just trying it out (**47%**; **45%**)
- For professional students, the three most common reasons for using Generative AI include:
 - Just trying it out (**63%**)
 - Gathering information related to personal interests (**43%**)
 - Gathering information related to academic work (**40%**)
- About half of all students agree that Generative AI tools are an appropriate resource to use in their academic and professional work.
- About **72%** of undergraduate students agree that they feel confident in their ability to appropriately use Generative AI tools compared to **65%** of graduate students and **53%** of professional students.
- About **74%** of undergraduate students agree that they know where to get answers about AI policies at Ohio State compared to **56%** of graduate students and **57%** of professional students.
- Generally, undergraduate students have higher levels of understanding of when Generative AI can be used in their courses compared to both graduate and professional students.

GENERATIVE AI UTILIZATION

Table 1. Percentage of students who reported using the following tools:

During your time at Ohio State, which of the following Generative AI tools have you used? Select all that apply.	Undergraduate Students (n = 574)	Graduate Students (n = 434)	Professional Students (n = 85)	Statistical Significance
Bing AI	2.8%	5.4%	2.7%	
Chat GPT	61.4%	62.9%	65.2%	
Claude	3.0%	6.3%	9.5%	**
Co-Pilot	18.1%	21.5%	8.1%	*
Codeium	0.2%	0.2%	1.7%	
Code Whisperer	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	
Gemini (Bard)	7.4%	9.6%	4.2%	
Grammarly	31.2%	29.8%	19.5%	
Llama	0.6%	1.7%	0.0%	
Midjourney	1.8%	0.8%	0.0%	
Mixtral	0.1%	0.5%	0.0%	
Photoshop AI	4.9%	3.4%	1.0%	
Quillbot	6.6%	3.7%	1.0%	*
Other	2.1%	2.6%	3.8%	
I have not used any Generative AI tools	26.7%	26.7%	32.0%	

* $p < .05$, ** $p < .01$, *** $p < .001$

Other Generative AI Tools:

- Perplexity (n = 4)
- Google Gemini (n = 3)
- Notebook (n = 2)
- Art Generator (n = 2)
- Lexis AI (n = 2)
- Canva Image (n = 2)
- Duck Assistant (n = 1)
- Siri (n = 1)
- Cursor IDE (n = 1)
- Deep Seek (n = 1)
- Otter AI (n = 1)
- Elicit (n = 1)
- AskAI (n = 1)
- Snapchat (n = 1)

REASON FOR GENERATIVE AI UTILIZATION

Students who reported using at least one of the Generative AI tools above were asked how they used the tool. Students were asked to select all options that apply.

Table 2. Percentage of students who reported using AI in the following ways:

What did you use the tool to do? Select all that apply.	Undergraduate Students (n = 414)	Graduate Students (n = 320)	Professional Students (n = 56)	Statistical Significance
Complete an assignment where I was specifically asked to use AI	32.8%	18.8%	16.2%	***
Create a plan to travel	14.8%	18.1%	11.6%	
Gather information related to my academic work	49.6%	50.5%	40.4%	
Gather information related to my job	23.9%	30.4%	16.6%	
Gather information related to my personal interests	44.0%	43.2%	42.8%	
Help with my code	17.2%	40.7%	5.1%	***
Just to try it out	46.7%	45.6%	62.8%	
Outline written assignments	24.3%	20.3%	18.8%	
Proofread my writing and grammar	57.1%	59.1%	38.3%	*
To learn about something new	34.5%	38.1%	26.7%	
Other	6.1%	6.7%	10.4%	

* $p < .05$, ** $p < .01$, *** $p < .001$

Other Uses of Generative AI Tools:

- Generate study materials ($n = 14$)
- Summarize articles and readings ($n = 6$)
- Help with writing and proofreading ($n = 6$)
- Creating emails ($n = 6$)
- Brainstorming ideas ($n = 6$)
- Check an assignment rubric or directions ($n = 5$)
- Create meal plans and recipes ($n = 3$)
- Fun ($n = 2$)
- Aid with financials ($n = 2$)
- Learning English ($n = 2$)
- Resume Writing ($n = 2$)
- Search Engine ($n = 2$)
- Create workout plans ($n = 1$)

PERCEPTION OF GENERATIVE AI

Table 3. Percentage of students who agree with the following questions:

	Undergraduate Students (n = 566)	Graduate Students (n = 426)	Professional Students (n = 85)	Statistical Significance
Generative AI tools are an appropriate resource to use in my academic and professional work.	48.0%	54.5%	46.7%	
I feel confident in my ability to appropriately use Generative AI tools.	71.5%	64.6%	53.0%	***
I feel confident in my ability to identify incorrect and/or false information produced by Generative AI tools.	65.1%	71.0%	60.2%	
I know where to get answers about how to use AI appropriately.	63.7%	59.2%	60.6%	
I know where to get answers about AI policies at Ohio State.	74.4%	55.5%	57.2%	***

* $p < .05$, ** $p < .01$, *** $p < .001$

ACADEMICS AND GENERATIVE AI

Table 4. Percentage of students who agree with the following questions:

What did you use the tool to do? Select all that apply.	Undergraduate Students (n = 565)	Graduate Students (n = 428)	Professional Students (n = 85)	Statistical Significance
My courses have clear policies and guidelines around the use of AI.	88.5%	71.1%	59.3%	***
I understand when I can and cannot use AI in my coursework.	90.4%	79.5%	76.3%	***
My courses view AI as a tool I can use to complete coursework.	29.1%	29.7%	24.7%	
My courses discourage the utilization of AI to complete coursework.	65.1%	44.3%	44.6%	***

* $p < .05$, ** $p < .01$, *** $p < .001$