SOUTHWESTERN

LAW SCHOOL

Los Angeles, CA

Standards for Using Generative AI to Prepare Admissions Materials

Administrative Policy approved September 23, 2024. Effective immediately.

Revision history: None; new policy.

Related policies: Student Honor Code; Policy Statement on Student Academic Work-Product Originality

Scheduled Review Date: July 2025 (Vice Deans Office)

Southwestern Law School is committed to training law students to use Generative AI professionally and responsibly. Southwestern is also committed to helping students develop excellent writing and analytical skills.

To help you decide whether specific uses of Generative AI in preparing your application materials for Southwestern are professional and responsible, ask yourself whether it would be appropriate for another person to perform the same task as part of your admissions process. For example, it would not be appropriate to hire or ask another person to draft your personal statement or another essay. It would be appropriate to ask for proofreading assistance or general input about improving a draft.

Accordingly, while Southwestern does not ban applicants from using Generative AI tools like ChatGPT, Claude, CoPilot, and Gemini when preparing their application materials, applicants should follow the following standards:

- Your voice is among your most powerful tools. It's how you convey your unique perspective and how we get to know you. Don't delegate that power to Generative AI tools that don't have your lived experiences or desire to study law.

- Copying and pasting directly from a Generative AI tool is plagiarism. Do not use substantial portions of text generated by a Generative AI tool verbatim. But if you do copy and paste language, put the language in quotation marks and cite the Generative AI tool. Please note that Southwestern's Student Honor Code applies to admissions applicants.

- Professional and responsible uses of Generative AI tools include brainstorming topics, helping to organize or structure your thoughts, checking for grammatical, style, and usage issues, and seeking general input about refining drafts.

Lawyers are professional communicators. And the best communicators are authentic, analytical, creative, and thoughtful. Over-reliance on Generative AI tools can impede students' development of these key skills. We want to hear from and get to know the authentic you. Not you filtered through a Generative AI tool.