New England Commission of Higher Education
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Statement on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in the Accreditation Process

The New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) recognizes the growing use of artificial intelligence in higher education, understands the potential of AI to spur innovation on campuses, and supports its use by our candidate and member institutions. The purpose of this statement is to delineate Commission expectations for the responsible use of AI for institutions and members of the Commission, its committees, and evaluators in the accreditation process.

The Use of AI in Institutional Report Preparation

Institutions may want to use AI in the preparation of their self-study, interim report, or other reports prepared for the Commission. The Commission expects that AI will be utilized in a manner that complies with its *Standards for Accreditation,* Requirements of Affiliation, and policies and procedures. In keeping with the Standard on *Integrity, Transparency, and Public Disclosure*, the Commission expects that, if AI is used in report preparation, the institution will disclose and describe its use in the introduction to the report demonstrating its "commitment to ethical practices, transparency, and accountability" (Statement of the Standard). In keeping with the Standard on *Institutional Resources,* the institution is reminded that in using AI it needs to "implement[] effective policies to ensure the integrity and security of data and the privacy of individuals" (3.12).

The Use of AI by Commissioners and Commission Representatives

The accreditation process is grounded in peer review and relies on the expertise and judgement of peer reviewers and Commissioners. While AI should not be used as a substitute for that expertise and judgement, there may be situations when the use of AI can support Commission representatives in their work. In those cases, the Commission requires that the AI Usage Guidelines outlined below are followed to maintain the confidentiality of materials and the quality and integrity of the review.

The Use of AI by Commission Staff

Staff may use AI to support and improve the efficiency of their work, adhering to the AI Usage Guidelines outlined below. NECHE maintains a secure AI system for internal staff use that does not share information externally.

NECHE AI Usage Guidelines

1. Only AI systems licensed by the Commission will be used; all security protocols will be followed to ensure the protection of institutional information.

2. AI should not be used as a replacement for peer analysis and judgment; it can, however, be used to support the peer review process.

3. The quality and integrity of the accreditation process will be maintained at all times.

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