# Ithaca College Guiding Principles on Artificial Intelligence

*The following guiding principles for the use of AI at Ithaca College were developed by the Presidential Working Group on AI, informed by best practices, a thorough review of the College's vision, mission, and values, and feedback from faculty, staff, and student governance groups. We recommend these principles be formally adopted to guide the implementation and evaluation of AI initiatives.*

## *Guiding Principles*

At Ithaca College, integrating AI into our educational mission requires us to go beyond simply adopting new technologies. It calls us to critically consider both the benefits and risks of AI tools within Ithaca College.  In our commitment to a future where AI serves the public good, we must intentionally craft policies and practices aligned with academic excellence, equity, inclusion, sustainability, transparency, and data security.

We commit to AI use that elevates human dignity, empowers our community, and upholds the integrity of our working and learning environment. As AI technology evolves, we pledge to continually review and align AI strategies with Ithaca College's mission, vision, and values (https://www.ithaca.edu/about/vision-mission-values).

**Ithaca College is an institution dedicated to empowering people through theory, practice, and performance:**

**We center on people, not technology,** ensuring that AI is used as a tool to enhance human skills and capabilities. We believe AI cannot replace the vital human relationships, creativity, and decision-making that define our educational experience. Rather, AI is one tool among many that allows our community to focus on innovation while maintaining human oversight and autonomy.

**We strive to promote digital inclusion, equity, access, personal data and intellectual property protection** within our IC community. We are dedicated to promoting equitable access to AI technologies and the opportunities they provide students, faculty, and staff.  By adopting AI with a growth mindset, we empower individuals to meaningfully contribute to their broader communities. Recognizing the potential for bias in AI systems, we actively identify and address technological barriers to equity and inclusion.

**We affirm our dedication to lifelong learning, adaptability, and sustainability** in our approach to using AI in our work, teaching, and learning. As AI continues to advance, continuous skill development and the adaptability for our students, staff, and faculty remain essential.

- We will prepare our students for a future where AI is integrated into workplaces across industry, government, and non-profit sectors. At Ithaca College, we believe that AI is set to transform the nature of and opportunities for employment and education. We are committed to integrating AI literacy into our curriculum and programming, ensuring that

our graduates are equipped with the knowledge, strategies, and skills needed to thrive in an AI-driven world.

- Beyond the classroom, AI will be utilized to enrich student experiences through personalized services and proactive support. We remain vigilant in safeguarding privacy and security as AI tools and resources become increasingly integrated into college operations.  We will empower our staff by supporting their use of AI tools that handle routine tasks, thereby enabling them to focus on higher-value activities such as professional growth, innovation, and strategic thinking.

- We will maintain an awareness that quality and authenticity are sometimes more important than efficiency.

- We will uphold integrity and transparency in our use of AI, fostering AI literacy and awareness across the Ithaca College Community.

**We will uphold and promote responsible AI research and use.** As a community of scholars and innovators, we conduct AI research with rigorous ethical standards by considering these technologies' benefits, risks, and potential impacts**.** Our commitment to responsible AI use ensures that we contribute positively to societal progress while upholding the values that define Ithaca College regarding academic excellence, individual ideas, and personal data. We ensure data security and proactive risk management through rigorous practices and regular evaluations involving campus stakeholders.

**We actively seek to minimize negative environmental impacts by adopting AI tools that prioritize sustainability and environmental stewardship.** Recognizing the urgent need for climate action, we prioritize partnerships with AI vendors who adhere to environmentally responsible practices. By continually assessing the role of AI in our work, to support energy efficiency, water conservation, and responsible resource management, we will align AI initiatives with our commitment to sustainability.

**We engage in continuous evaluation and communication**. Regular reviews, transparent communication, and opportunities for community feedback will ensure our AI initiatives remain aligned with institutional values and community expectations.