

Generative AI and the Graduate Milestones Retreat

The Generative AI and Graduate Milestones Retreat invites faculty to collectively think about generative AI and what it means for graduate teaching and assessment. We begin with the values that define learning and knowledge in the discipline. By the end of the session, we will have developed a set of shared guiding principles to be used in course AI policies across the department, and a working draft of guidance on AI use for the Master's and PhD milestones.

Outcomes

1. Articulating the shared values, norms, teaching and assessment practices that define graduate teaching and assessment in the academic program
2. Developing a set of department-wide guiding principles for assessment
3. Identifying specific elements of the graduate milestones that should be protected from, or could benefit from, intentional AI use
4. Producing a working draft of guidance on AI use for the Master's and PhD milestones

Sample Full-Day Agenda (5.5 hours including lunch)

Length	Activities
30 mins	Session opening
45 mins	Shared values and current assessment practices in the program Small groups will discuss shared values that guide their teaching and assessments in graduate programs. Groups will also discuss: • What counts as knowledge in this program at the graduate level? • What are the milestone assessment methods and what do they assess? • What instructional methods do you use to prepare students for these milestones?
45 mins	Developing guiding principles Small groups review their notes and draft ~5 principles that capture what they want to uphold in their assessments (i.e., what principles should guide how we assess students). Principles are then mapped onto the existing milestones.
60 mins	Lunch
30 mins	Generative AI primer An introduction to generative AI and its impact on teaching and learning.
30 mins	Instructor share Faculty are invited to share how they are responding to generative AI in graduate milestones.

80 mins	Milestone guidance drafting Groups will revisit the milestones identified in the earlier activity, including the components, what is being assessed, and the instructional methods used to prepare students for the milestone. Groups will discuss and identify: • Where should AI use be restricted? • Where might AI use be permissible or even valuable? • How should use be disclosed? • What does the supervisor need to know? Groups are asked to consolidate this information into approx. 3-4 draft guidance statements for students. Groups will review each other's statements and discuss the areas where there is a range of views and where supervisors need to use judgement.
10 mins	Summary and next steps