



Colorado Child Welfare
Scholars Consortium

Using Artificial Intelligence for the CCWSC Scholarship Application

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is becoming a more integrated part of our daily lives. According to the National Association of Social Workers (n.d.), “AI promises to revolutionize the way we work by using computer systems to perform tasks that typically require human intelligence, such as learning from experience, reasoning, problem-solving and understanding natural language.”

The Colorado Child Welfare Scholars Consortium (CCWSC) recognizes this emerging area of social work practice that will inevitably change the way we work. We embrace the use of AI where and when appropriate and ethically responsible. We support more efficient processes and believe that AI can be a useful tool to generate new ideas that complement one’s own knowledge, skills and abilities. We also caution social work students and prospective scholars to have a clear understanding of what AI tools can and cannot do to support content development and agency and university policies that inform AI use. While AI tools can be a great way to initiate an application, a paper or communication, the CCWSC would advise that individuals continue to use their own critical thinking and professional judgment to analyze the information provided (e.g., fact-checking).

Through the child welfare scholar’s application and essay process, the CCWSC is interested in getting to know and understand the uniqueness of each applicant. We strongly encourage applicants who choose to use AI tools as part of this process to carefully review and edit information provided by these tools. In addition, it is critical that applicants understand how the technology works and abide by current AI rules and regulations. If AI is used as part of the information that will be submitted, its use should be briefly but accurately explained in a submission statement and follow appropriate APA citation. Failing to provide this citation to your work is a form of academic dishonesty. Please develop a strong documentation process (an important social work skill) if you choose to use AI for your CCWSC application.

APA Guidance for AI Citation

Citation Example: OpenAI. (2023). *ChatGPT* (Mar 14 version) [Large language model]. <https://chat.openai.com/chat>

Citation within text: When given a follow-up prompt of “What is a more accurate representation?” the ChatGPT-generated text indicated that “different brain regions work together to support various cognitive processes” and “the functional specialization of different regions can change in response to experience and environmental factors” (OpenAI, 2023; see Appendix A for the full transcript).



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Full citation guidance: <https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/how-to-cite-chatgpt>

References:

National Association of Social Workers (n.d.). *AI and Social Work*. Retrieved September 16th, 2024 from <https://www.socialworkers.org/About/Ethics/AI-and-Social-Work>

Policy approved by the CCWSC committee on 11/21/24.