Seneca POLYTECHNIC

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES INSTITUTIONAL ACADEMIC STATEMENT

Institutional Academic Statement

At Seneca Polytechnic, our mandate is to get our students career-ready and world-ready. This includes recognizing the ways in which artificial intelligence emerging technologies (AI-ET) are reshaping an increasing number of industries and professions, and our responsibility to provide opportunities for our students to critically engage with these emerging technologies.

Our consultations with employers identified the need for graduates to develop strong human skills alongside their technical skills. Communication, collaboration, empathy, resourcefulness and agility, along with problem-solving and critical-thinking/analysis are part of the human skills that are salient across every sector today. Data literacy and strong commitments to reconciliation, equity, diversity, inclusion and sustainability are also part of the spectrum of human skills and values our graduates require.

To this end, all Seneca students will have the opportunity to critically engage with AI emerging technologies to prepare for their careers and life as engaged citizens. Students must learn to recognize and take advantage of the benefits and potentialities AI emerging technologies have to offer while understanding the limitations and possibilities for misuses and abuses. Through critical engagement, they will learn to differentiate socially beneficial possibilities of AI-ET from inherently harmful ones. This will allow the flourishment of innovation to be guided by the essential human skills and values previously identified as needed.

At Seneca Polytechnic, our graduates receive a world-class education that prepares them for the great careers of today, as well as those of tomorrow.

The Consultation Process

The institutional academic statement on artificial intelligence emerging technologies is a product of consultation and input from across academic, operational and service areas within Seneca. An AI-ET Committee was assembled for this purpose. The committee consisted of faculty members, chairs and managers from various academic areas, along with representatives from ITS, Seneca Innovation, Academic Quality, Teaching & Learning, the Registrar's Office and Library Services. Committee members had the opportunity to attend as representatives from their respective departments to provide input for this institutional academic statement and the accompanying guiding questions and considerations. PACs were consulted to ensure industry alignment. The Academic College Council, which includes student representation, as well as the student government were also consulted.

Guiding Questions and Considerations

Recognizing the rapid pace of advancements of AI-ET, this institutional academic statement is being supplemented with a set of guiding questions and considerations to help facilitate faculty-, school- and program-level discussions related to AI-ET, along with recommended student and faculty supports. The aim of the guiding questions and considerations is to assist the various academic areas in their conversations regarding how to best critically engage with AI-ET in their respective areas.