

Guiding Principles

Guiding Marist's AI strategy are six principles that are non-negotiable and rooted in the University's mission of service, community, and educational excellence. These principles ensure our trajectory remains true to our mission and values. These principles, formalized in our institutional Ethics Statement on Artificial Intelligence, establish the high-level commitments that will shape every policy, guideline, and decision about AI technologies at Marist.



Human-Centeredness: AI at Marist will always serve to enhance human capabilities, relationships, and flourishing—never to replace the irreducibly human elements of education and decision-making. We will maintain meaningful human oversight in all AI implementations, ensuring these technologies empower people, enhance their abilities, and preserve their autonomy. As we integrate AI tools into teaching and learning, we will uphold the highest standards of integrity.



Ethical Oversight: Every AI implementation will be subject to rigorous ethical review, ensuring alignment with our values and the interests of all stakeholders. We commit to transparency about when and how AI is used, accountability frameworks that hold us responsible for outcomes, and fairness in every application. This includes establishing clear ethical guidelines for AI use in academic work that uphold our standards of academic integrity.



Social Impact: We commit to developing AI applications and preparing graduates who will use these technologies to address society's greatest challenges. This means evaluating the broader social implications of our AI initiatives and fostering positive contributions to both our community and global society. We will actively work to prevent AI from exacerbating existing inequalities through comprehensive education about algorithmic bias, data privacy, and labor impacts.



Environmental Awareness: We will consider the environmental implications of AI adoption, monitor compute and energy impacts, and pursue sustainable approaches. We commit to collaborating across the institution to understand, assess, and guide actions that minimize AI's environmental footprint, and we will seek partners who share our commitment to responsible stewardship of resources.



Equal Access and Opportunity: We will ensure that AI tools and training are accessible to all members of our community, actively working to prevent AI from widening existing inequities. We will bridge the digital divide by providing targeted support to those who need it, making AI a force for inclusion and opportunity for everyone at Marist.



Community Engagement: Our AI initiatives will strengthen, not diminish, our connections to alumni, industry partners, the Hudson Valley, and the global communities we serve. We will foster an informed and engaged community by promoting AI literacy and creating opportunities for open dialogue about AI's role and impact. This ongoing conversation will help us adapt our approach as technology and community needs to evolve.