Senate Committees

Report to the Graduate Studies Committee

Discussion Item

Topic: Principles for assessment in the era of artificial intelligence

Date of Meeting: April 22, 2026

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1. Purpose of the Report

- To discuss and receive feedback on a draft set of principles intended to guide the design and support of learning assessments at the university at a time when the proliferation, integration, and adoption of artificial intelligence continue to challenge traditional approaches to learning assessment.

2. Background

- Ever since the advent of ChatGPT and other generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) platforms, the Centre for Pedagogical Innovation (CPI) has provided guidance to Brock's educators on the use of GenAI in the context of teaching and learning. This guidance has been updated over time, including to reflect updates to the university's academic integrity policy and to address the use of AI detection tools. Additionally, CPI launched an asynchronous workshop on GenAI on the new Faculty and Instructors CPI Teaching and Learning Brightspace site along with a Community of Practice on Generative AI and Assessment to complement its ongoing synchronous workshops for instructors and teaching assistants.
- On July 17, 2025, OpenAI released ChatGPT agent, which users can empower to log in to and navigate websites while performing complex tasks. Although users were previously able to use ChatGPT and other GenAI tools to support their work (whether authorized or unauthorized), the release of this new "agent mode" in

ChatGPT marked a further development with AI, in that this use now requires far less human oversight and intermediation. This development and subsequent advancements have brought serious implications for all web platforms, including Brightspace, Brock University's learning management system.

- In August 2025 the Vice Provost, Teaching and Learning provided guidance for instructors concerning agentic AI and summative assessment while clarifying that "whereas students who engage in unauthorized use of AI will be in clear violation of the Academic Integrity Policy, any user of Brock University systems that utilizes ChatGPT's agent mode (or other agentic AI tools) to access Brightspace or other university systems will additionally be in violation of Brock's IT Acceptable Use Policy and Standards."
- That same communication from the Vice Provost indicated that, starting in Fall 2025, CPI would convene a series of conversations across the university concerning the future of assessment. Accordingly, over the past seven months, CPI staff have facilitated numerous such conversations with interested programs across multiple Faculties.
- Insights from these conversations have been distilled and augmented with research on innovative institutional frameworks and promising pedagogical strategies being tested and adopted at universities across the world.
- These draft principles, which also reflect the five institutional priorities outlined in Brock University's Academic Plan, are included in an appendix for discussion and feedback.
- Members of the Senate Teaching and Learning Practices Committee reviewed an and provided feedback on an earlier draft of these principles on April 10, 2026
- A collection of promising assessment practices is also being developed and will be shared at the May 2026 meeting of this committee.

3. Appendix

- Draft principles for assessment in the era of AI