Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tool Use in Scholarship, Grant, or Award Applications

The American Osteopathic Foundation recognizes the value of artificial intelligence (AI) tools and, accordingly, permits their responsible and ethical use in the preparation of scholarship, grant, and award applications. Effective January 1, 2027, all scholarship, grant and award applicants must disclose whether generative AI tools were used in developing any part of an application. This disclosure will be provided to AOF reviewers. AOF's volunteer reviewers will continue to evaluate applications based on the Foundation's selection criteria, not on whether an applicant used or did not use AI in developing the application.

Acceptable AI Usage Policy

The following usage policy will be prominently displayed on the AOF's scholarship, grant and award portal for all users to review prior to initiating an application:

- AI may be used in the development of an application, but this use must be disclosed by the applicant.
- Applicants should be aware of the risks involved in using AI tools, including potential threats to the confidentiality and privacy of their information.
- The responsibility for thoroughly verifying the accuracy, authenticity, completeness, and relevance of all AI-generated content rests with the applicant.
- Acceptable usage may include brainstorming, outlining thoughts, refining text (spelling, grammar, clarity), summarizing text, and citation formatting.
- For applicants affiliated with an academic institution, any use of AI must conform to the guidelines, rules, and regulations of that institution. For applicants who are not affiliated with an academic institution, any use of AI must conform to the ethical standards and professional guidelines of the applicant's relevant professional or licensing body (or, where no such guidelines exist, must otherwise be consistent with the principles of academic and professional integrity).
- Applicants seeking research grant funding should exercise caution when using AI tools. Research proposals may contain confidential, proprietary, unpublished, or otherwise sensitive information. Entering such information into AI platforms may create risks related to privacy, confidentiality, intellectual property, or data security. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that any use of AI does not compromise the confidentiality or integrity of their proposed research.

Failure to comply with the policy will result in the removal of the application from award consideration.