**August 2023**

*Please share with your faculty:*

**Using ChatGPT to Advance Assessment Practices**

ChatGPT is a powerful tool that can instantly generate and synthesize content on infinite subject matters. For many educators, this innovative technology carries negative connotations because of its association with plagiarism. As a result, many stakeholders across colleges and universities have been focusing on trying to develop safeguards to prevent students from accessing this tool. Some (e.g., Mathews, 2023; Samuels-White, 2023), however, argue that ChatGPT is a powerful, beneficial, assessment tool that can aid instructors in developing more efficient and effective assessments, and can facilitate students’ development of higher-level cognitive processes. For example, in a recent blog post by Ed Mathews (2023) he discusses how ChatGPT can be a useful tool for generating banks of test questions on a variety of subjects and at different levels of difficulty. In addition, ChatGPT can randomize test questions to enhance reliability and validity of the test and reduce cheating. This in turn saves instructors valuable time and energy from manually having to create and randomize such content. He discusses how ChatGPT can even be trained to grade students’ answers on test questions which speeds up feedback for students. Mathews acknowledges that the software isn’t’ perfect, and still requires human review, but editing questions and feedback is still faster than developing the content.

According to Samuels-White (2023) ChatGPT doesn’t just benefit instructors, but also benefits students and their development of higher cognitive abilities. That is because ChatGPT, which produces and synthesizes content at the knowledge level of Bloom’s taxonomy, necessitates students to evaluate and think critically about the content produced by ChatGPT. Samuels-White gives an example of how ChatGPT was incorporated into an assessment of students’ critical thinking skills in a teacher preparation course. For the assessment, ChatGPT was asked to develop scoring rubrics for an assignment. ChatGPT produced three different rubrics to evaluate the assignment. Students were then tasked to evaluate the appropriateness of each of the rubrics for scoring the assignment, compare the rubrics, and determine which rubric provided the most valid and reliable results. In this example, students went beyond just producing the content, which ChatGPT was able to do in just a few seconds, and had to think critically about the content that was produced.

In addition, the article also discusses the example of students being asked to evaluate whether ChatGPT produced high quality, valid and reliable multiple choice test questions. Like in the other example, this assessment did not ask students to produce content, which ChatGPT could do in mere seconds, but asked students to think critically about the quality of the content produced by ChatGPT.

Whether you like it or not, ChatGPT is here to stay in the foreseeable future. The conversation around it should not be whether it is good or bad, but rather how can this powerful tool be used to advance students’ learning and assessment practices.

**Check out:** Samuels-White (2023). Level up higher education assessments ChatGpt. *Faculty Focus.* Retrieved July 11, 2023 from <https://www.facultyfocus.com/articles/educational-assessment/level-up-higher-education-assessments-with-chatgpt/>

Mathews, Ed (2023). Generative AI, ChatGPT and the Implications for Test Creation. Retrieved July 11, 2023 from <https://www.taotesting.com/blog/generative-ai-chatgpt-and-the-implications-for-digital-assessment/>

**Important Reminder:** If you have not yet submitted your Spring 2023 assessment report, please email it to me ASAP. Please also contact me if you have any questions about your Fall assessment plans. Thanks very much.