NetTutor®

Dynamic Academic Support

Spotlight on Tutoring in the Age of AI

Genuine Learning in a Generative Age

Artificial Intelligence is rapidly reshaping the educational landscape. From writing assistance and math problem-solving to data analysis and presentation design, AI tools are becoming part of how students learn and how instructors teach. As institutions adapt to this shift, many are still determining how AI should be used in the classroom, what counts as appropriate support, and how to guide students toward ethical, effective use. It's a complex and evolving conversation—and one we're prepared to support.

Our AI Approach: Institution-Guided and Student-Focused

At NetTutor, we believe that academic support should evolve alongside the tools students encounter—while continuing to emphasize learning integrity. Every NetTutor session is led by a trained **human tutor** and grounded in thoughtful dialogue and **shared human experience**: the ability to listen, encourage, adapt, and connect. These are the moments that shape **genuine learning**—built on empathy, trust, and collaboration—not automation. We work closely with each institution to align our tutoring practices with its **AI usage policies** via custom **Rules of Engagement**, ensuring students receive support that reflects both institutional values and best practices for honest learning.

Helping Students Do Their Own Work—Then and Now

Tutoring has always been about **supporting students in doing their own work**. Long before AI, students had access to shortcuts—from copying a friend's homework to turning in a paper written by someone else. The role of a tutor has never been to prevent access to these options, but rather to offer a meaningful alternative: guidance that builds understanding, confidence, and academic independence.

This hasn't changed. What's changed are the tools. Today, students may use AI to generate content or solve problems, **sometimes without realizing when that use crosses a line**. But like any shortcut, relying on these tools can actually limit growth. When students outsource their thinking, they **miss out on learning**—weakening the very skills they need to succeed.

Tutors help students navigate this evolving landscape the same way they always have—by encouraging honest effort, clarifying expectations, and focusing the session on what the student needs to understand and apply on their own.

Our Standard Policy: Integrity Through Human Interaction

At NetTutor, **academic integrity** is at the core of every session. Our tutors are trained to support students in doing their own work—guiding them through challenging material, asking thoughtful questions, and helping them **build confidence in their own voice**. When a student's submission doesn't reflect their typical writing style or demonstrated proficiency, tutors are expected to redirect the session in a way that promotes understanding and honest effort.

These expectations are outlined in our **Rules of Engagement**, which serve as the framework for every NetTutor session. Institutions are welcome to customize the ROE to reflect their own academic standards and policies**, including those related to AI**. This ensures our support remains aligned, consistent, and rooted in trust—between tutor, student, and institution.

If a student asks whether AI tools are allowed for a particular assignment and the school policy is unknown, tutors encourage the student to **check the course syllabus or ask their instructor**, since expectations vary across institutions and courses.

Tutoring & Coaching to Support Use of AI

When institutions permit student use of AI, NetTutor can help reinforce responsible practices through both **tutoring and coaching**. Tutors encourage students to engage with AI-generated content thoughtfully—asking questions, identifying gaps, and recognizing when responses may be inaccurate or misleading. This includes helping students **develop effective prompting** strategies, push back on AI "**hallucinations**," and verify information rather than accept it at face value. Our expanded **Student Success Coaching** program further supports this effort by helping students **build AI literacy**: understanding when and how these tools are appropriate, how to use them ethically, and how to maintain academic integrity as part of a broader learning strategy.

Supporting Students Studying AI

For **students enrolled in courses** that explore artificial intelligence, machine learning, or data science, NetTutor provides live academic support across a range of related subjects. Tutors help students understand foundational concepts, write and debug code, interpret mathematical models, and engage with ethical questions about AI's impact on society. These sessions combine subject-area expertise with values-based guidance, helping students develop both technical skills and responsible **habits of mind**.