

Executive Summary

AI Strategy: Teaching and Learning Working Group

Purpose and Context

This document synthesizes the work of the CU Denver's Teaching and Learning AI Strategy Working Group, one of three groups tasked in Spring 2025 with shaping the university's approach to artificial intelligence (AI). The group was tasked with identifying practical AI applications, developing policy recommendations, and conducting strategic analyses (SWOT and SOAR) to guide responsible AI integration. The goal is to align AI adoption with CU Denver's mission of inclusivity, academic excellence, and innovation.

Key Findings

AI Use Cases

The working group identified 14 student-focused and 6 instructor-focused AI use cases. Student use cases include AI tutors, adaptive learning platforms, and tools for accessibility and academic success. Instructor use cases focus on course design, feedback enhancement, and planning. Accessible Learning, Knowledge Checking, and Research & Academic Writing Support were identified as priority use cases, based on impact and relevance. Enhance Feedback and Timelines/Project Plans emerged as priorities for instructors.

Policy Recommendations

The proposed AI policy framework emphasized ethical use, transparency, compliance, and innovation. Key recommendations include: Guiding Principles for AI Use, Required Syllabus Statements, Faculty Disclosure Requirements, Student Guidelines, Data Privacy and Security, Experimental Tool Guidelines, and Resources & Support. These policies aim to ensure consistency, protect data, and foster responsible innovation.

Strategic Analysis (SWOT)

The SWOT Analysis highlighted strong institutional resources and innovative culture but notes challenges such as lack of clear guidelines and digital literacy gaps. Opportunities include personalized learning and employability, while threats include academic integrity and equity concerns.

Strategic Implications

The findings underscore the need for a balanced approach that combines innovation with governance. Policies and use cases should align with CU Denver's strategic goals: making education work for all, prioritizing discovery and innovation, cultivating a campus-wide innovation system, and driving a flourishing community. Collaboration across faculty, IT, legal, and leadership is essential for successful implementation.

Conclusion

CU Denver is well-positioned to lead in ethical and inclusive AI adoption. By implementing the recommended policies, prioritizing high-impact use cases, and leveraging institutional strengths, the university can enhance teaching and learning while safeguarding academic integrity and equity. This approach would provide a roadmap for innovation that supports student success and faculty development.