

AI 101 for Higher Education:



What Every Educator Needs to Know

What AI Is and What It Is Not

AI does not "know" or "understand." It predicts outputs based on patterns in training data. AI outputs are probabilistic, not guaranteed to be accurate, unbiased, or complete.

Why This Matters

AI generates plausible language, not verified truth.

Generative AI vs Agentic AI

Generative AI

Generative AI responds.

Examples of what it does:

Writes text, Summarizes readings,
Generates images, Creates code, Drafts feedback

Agentic AI

Agentic AI initiates and acts.

Agentic systems can:

Plan tasks, Break goals into subtasks,
Execute sequences across tools, Retrieve data and act on it, Adjust behavior based on feedback

Popular Generative AI Applications



Text Generation

ChatGPT, Claude,
Gemini, Microsoft Copilot



Writing Refinement

Grammarly, QuillBot



Image Generation

DALL·E, Midjourney,
Adobe Firefly



Content Design

Gamma, Canva AI,
Beautiful.ai



Research

Perplexity, Elicit,
Consensus, Scite



Multimedia

ElevenLabs, Descript,
Synthesia, Runway