

Learning Integrity Insights Report

Q1 2026

What's inside

Turnitin's quarterly Learning Integrity Insights Reports reveal the qualitative and quantitative data driving our work with educators, students, and institutions as we navigate this next chapter of learning integrity and what responsible use of AI looks like in practice.

In this report, we'll examine:

- The latest trends in learning integrity
- Navigating responsible use of AI in classrooms and lecture halls
- Turnitin Clarity & responsible use of AI
- AI in feedback and grading = a more complicated story
- Student AI use trends and expectations for their educators
- Authentic learning in the age of AI
- How to move forward



A legacy of authenticity

From our start more than 25 years ago, we have built education technology solutions that champion authentic learning. Turnitin is invested in researching and understanding how learning is impacted by technology as we develop tools alongside educators to foster critical thinking skills amongst students and free up educator administrative time to spend more time teaching. Now with more than **16,000 customers** in **185+ countries**, we have worked with **74 million students** around the world.

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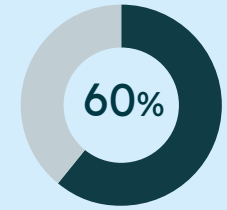
Chris Caren
Chief Executive Officer

The latest trends in learning integrity

From resistance to integration and personalization:

“Responsible” use of AI is a range, in practice, for both students and educators.

- **More than 60%** of recent customer feedback prioritized the need for transparency in AI use.
- Most **educators are** not just asking whether AI was used; they’re **asking *how* and *why* AI was used**.
- As educators and institutions move from detection, to integration of AI (with guardrails), there is a desire for AI customization.



60% of recent customer feedback prioritized the need for transparency in AI use.

The feedback gap:

Educators tell us that they don’t have time to give students the amount of feedback students deserve. And students often don’t have time or the opportunity to ask for it during the writing process. AI could help here, but there is a healthy amount of hesitation around bringing AI into feedback.

The policy gap:

Conversations with customers reveal that when there are clear and consistent policies on the use of AI, both educators and students benefit. **But fewer than half of institutions report having an AI policy.**

Navigating responsible use of AI in classrooms and lecture halls

A 2026 Higher Education Policy Institute survey found **94% of students reported using generative AI** to help with assessed work.¹ In this new environment, educators are eager to understand how and whether their students are learning. Many are seeking AI tools with guardrails to help teach their students what appropriate use of AI in an assignment looks like.

¹ Stephenson, Rose, and Charlotte Armstrong. *Student Generative Artificial Intelligence Survey*. Higher Education Policy Institute, 12 Mar. 2026.



Turnitin Clarity & responsible use of AI

Last year, Turnitin released a writing transparency tool, Turnitin Clarity, that gives educators full visibility into the writing process, as well as a student AI assistant with guardrails. Since we launched the tool, more than **3,000 educators** have been trained for use in more than **2,000 classes**, and in Q1 2026, **100,000 papers** were submitted using Turnitin Clarity. One major theme so far:

The AI assistant is celebrated... and needs to be personalized:

About a quarter of recent conversations we've had with Turnitin Clarity customers are focused on the AI assistant capabilities.

The good:

Many instructors love the "ethical" use of AI in an education setting, noting that it coaches students without doing the work for them.

The challenge:

A number of educators express a desire for more control, including adjustments like modifying how helpful/unhelpful the AI assistant can be, customizing the pre-populated prompts, or allowing whether it will predict a rubric score.

Since Turnitin Clarity's
launch



AI in feedback and grading = a more complicated story

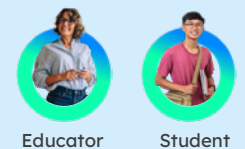
While many educators are eager for an AI solution for the writing process, there is hesitancy around using AI as part of a feedback and grading solution.

- Only **10-15%**² of instructors report regularly using AI to help with grading or feedback. According to Turnitin interviews with customer educators, comfort with AI-assisted grading depends on the stakes of the assignment and whether it is subjective or objective.
- Educators would consider using AI with human oversight for **low stakes, subjective** or **high stakes, objective feedback** but indicate their comfort level rests in **low stakes, objective assessments**.

² Estimates from Gallup and Wiley surveys suggests that about **10-15%** of instructors are regularly (e.g., at least once a month) using AI to help with grading or feedback.

Malek Ash, Andrea. *Teaching for Tomorrow: Unlocking Six Weeks a Year With AI*. Gallup and Walton Family Foundation, 25 June 2025.

Wiley. *The Latest Insights into Academic Integrity: Instructor & Student Experiences, Attitudes, and the Impact of AI 2024 Update*. Wiley, 29 July 2024.



Student AI use trends and expectations for their educators

AI writing assistance has to be tailored to education:

When using Turnitin Clarity, we see students [hungry for feedback](#) during the writing process, asking questions like, “Is this good?” about a third of the time when interacting with the AI assistant. But when it comes to getting feedback from the tools available to them (free or within their classroom), there are major inconsistencies.

Take a look at this [side-by-side comparison](#) video of a conversation with the Turnitin Clarity AI assistant vs. a leading LLM.

Responsible use of AI applies to educators, too:

Our research found students commenting it would be “disrespectful” for their professor to use AI to grade when they’re paying tuition. They value the assessment coming from their instructors, so any AI-generated feedback or grading has to supplement, not replace, human assessment.



Authentic learning in the age of AI

Institutional integrity policies need an upgrade. While the question of AI use is top of mind, cheating in the pre-AI sense is still happening, and still hard to talk about. There remains a consistent average of between **6-7% of student papers** showing a similarity score of **>80% from other sources**, approximately **91% of those matched to our database**, **8% from internet sources**, and **1% from publications**.³

To address the new question of what is appropriate use of AI in the classroom, the majority of institutions know they need an AI policy—only 39% of universities have a formal AI policy in place according to a [2025 EDUCAUSE study](#)⁴—but many don't know where to start. Here's what we are hearing in our conversations with educators:

Institutions with clear policies get better outcomes:

Many feel like they're making important classroom decisions without consistent guidance to rely on. And many faculty are seeking professional development opportunities to build their own AI skills.

No AI policy = tension:

Educators are trying to maintain academic integrity while also supporting student learning. However, when institutions provide limited or unclear guidance on AI use, balancing these goals becomes difficult.

Interpretation matters:

Even when AI policies exist, educators express confusion (for both them and their students) when there are differences in how those policies are interpreted or applied across departments.

³From April 2023 to date, 6.16% of submissions contain >80% similarity, and of those, 91% primarily match other student papers, 7.8% match internet sources, and about 1% match publications. Before the release of generative AI tools over a similar three year period (11/30/2019 - 11/30/2022), a similarly consistent share of student papers showed extremely high overlap with existing sources. About 6.86% of submissions contained >80% similarity, and of those, 88.25% primarily matched other student papers, 10.75% matched internet sources, and about 1% matched publications.

⁴Jenay Robert and Mark McCormack. *2025 EDUCAUSE AI Landscape Study: Into the Digital AI Divide*. Boulder, CO: EDUCAUSE, February 2025.

Moving forward

Institutions, educators, and students are currently trying, testing, and learning what responsible use of AI in education looks like. At Turnitin, we are inspired by the opportunity to continue our work partnering with educators around the world to deliver tools that offer institutions the flexibility to meet the moment, make that definition their own, and champion authentic learning.



Turnitin

Turnitin stands with educators and institutions as champions of learning integrity who understand the enduring value of education in a rapidly changing world. As a global company with more than 16,000 customers in 185 countries and territories and more than 25 years of experience working closely with educators, Turnitin designs every product it builds to address timely needs in today's learning settings. From integrity solutions offering transparency in the writing process to delivering secure high-stakes and course assessments, Turnitin provides educators and researchers with the tools they need to navigate responsible use of AI in education and the learning experience.



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