

Best Practices

Understanding Sherpath AI

Sherpath AI combines Elsevier's trusted, evidence-based nursing education content with advanced generative artificial intelligence (Gen AI), offering valuable and timely support for students and educators navigating course-level learning, exam preparation, and transition to practice.



Key Point: Unlike other chatbots that are trained using internet content, Sherpath AI is designed specifically for nursing students and educators and trained exclusively on Elsevier nursing content.

Introducing Sherpath AI to Students

Sherpath AI is an exciting tool that can help enhance students' learning experience! Be sure to explain the difference between Sherpath AI and other chatbots. This is a great opportunity to reinforce critical appraisal of resources with students. Set expectations for how Sherpath AI should and should not be used.

We recommend sharing examples of acceptable and helpful use cases with students, such as:

- **If you have a question**, instead of emailing your professor and waiting for an answer, you can ask AI and receive an immediate, textbook answer to your question!
- **Ask follow-up questions** based on confusing quiz questions or rationales to help you better understand a topic.
- **You can pull your own practice questions** outside of what is assigned as a low-stakes way to test your knowledge. Make sure you ask for the answers and rationale to reinforce your understanding of the concepts and ensure you get the complete learning experience!
- **You can ask AI to create a content outline** on any specific topic from your textbook. This is a good, reliable source to help prepare and organize yourself to learn the week's content. You can print the outline out and fill in whether you're taking notes in class or on your own.
- **You can ask for help when you're writing your care plans.** AI can help you brainstorm nursing diagnoses and interventions that apply to your clinical patients. You will have to come up with the application and rationale specific to your patient explaining why you are choosing the specifics of your care plan, but AI can help get you started if you're stuck.

Policy Considerations

Set clear expectations for what is and isn't acceptable. We recommend creating standard language for all course syllabi that address the use of AI on written assignments. In most cases, utilizing Sherpath AI or any other form of AI to write a paper would be prohibited and constitute plagiarism. Provide examples of proper citations of Sherpath AI if you will allow students to utilize it as reference for their work (for example, to assist with case studies).

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Sample Syllabus Language

It is important to remember that Sherpath AI is not a replacement for your own critical thinking and original ideas. It is an educational tool you are encouraged to use in different capacities throughout the course to aid in your learning. Examples include asking for explanations on specific topics, asking for practice questions or videos, and asking for content outlines from the textbook to aide in your studies. Students may not use Sherpath AI, or any other AI, in order to complete graded written assignments in this course. Each student is expected to complete written assignments on their own, without assistance from others, which includes AI, unless otherwise directed. All sources must be cited appropriately. Violations of this policy will be considered academic misconduct.

Strategies for Utilizing Sherpath AI

Although Sherpath AI is optimized to answer student questions, it is also a valuable resource for instructors. There are many ways you can incorporate Sherpath AI into your instruction.

Implementation Ideas for Instructors

Get an organized summary or create an outline for your course – ask for summarized information or lists to put on slides or create a full outline of your course.

🗣️ **Example Prompts:** “Summarize the types of insulin” or “Create an outline for a class about diabetes.”

Refresh on content – ask questions about topic(s) that you don’t teach often to get an overview and summary of what your textbook includes.

🗣️ **Example Prompt:** “Help me understand hyperemesis gravidarum.”

Find another way to say it – use Sherpath AI to find “another way” to talk about or explain a difficult concept.

🗣️ **Example Prompt:** “Explain the pathophysiology of cancer.”

Answer difficult student questions – use Sherpath AI to find answers to those in-depth or difficult questions that students sometimes ask!

🗣️ **Example Prompt:** “Why do some patients with diabetes experience symptoms of hypoglycemia but others do not?”

Get ideas for engaging class activities in a specific area – ask for a class activity to teach students related to the content of the class and a particular concept, competency, or domain.

🗣️ **Example Prompt:** “Provide a class activity to teach students about social determinants of health related to diabetes.”

Get ideas for how to assess students in a specific area – ask how to assess students related to the content of the class and a particular concept, competency, or domain.

🗣️ **Example Prompt:** “How can I assess students’ competency related to social determinants of health and diabetes?”

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Student Engagement Ideas for Instructors

- **Ask students to have a conversation** with Sherpath AI about a topic they are struggling with.
- **Ask students to review or reflect** on a response from Sherpath AI.
- **Ask students to critically assess** the information provided by the AI chat. They can evaluate the responses for accuracy, evidence-based practice, and applicability to nursing scenarios.

Generate Interactive Class Content

To find engaging class activities, ask Sherpath AI for a class activity, case study, small group activity, or discussion question about the content you are teaching.

☀️ **Example Prompt:** “Give me an engaging class activity about mobility.”

Top Prompting Tips

Following our prompting tips will improve the quality of the responses you receive and allow you to communicate with Sherpath AI more effectively.

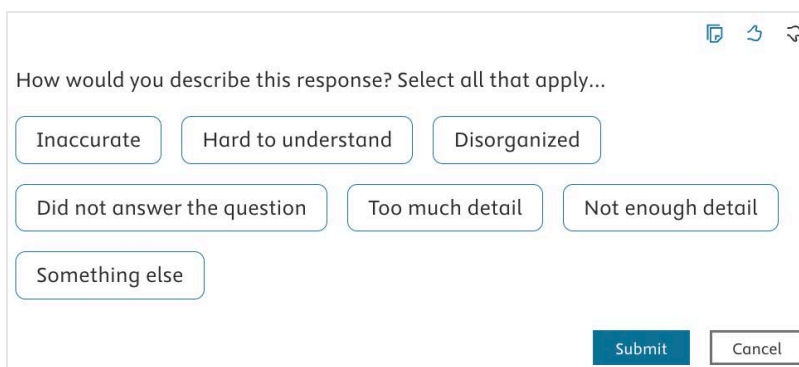
- **Make sure the question is related** to content in your nursing textbook.
- **Ask one or two questions** at a time.
- **Be specific.** For example, use specific terms for procedures and assessments, such as “passive leg raise” instead of “leg test,” which could refer to many types of assessments involving legs.
- **If you are asking for class activities** such as case studies, be sure to state “include answers” or “include answers and rationale” if you want to have an answer key for yourself.
- **For assistance with patient care planning,** ask about a “nursing care plan.” You may even specify “nursing interventions” or “how do I evaluate the effectiveness of interventions.”

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Not Satisfied With a Response?

If you are not happy with the responses Sherpath AI is giving you, there are several things you can do:

1. **First, let us know!** The best way to provide feedback is by rating the specific response(s) you are unhappy with by using the thumbs down button, as shown in the example below.



How would you describe this response? Select all that apply...

Inaccurate Hard to understand Disorganized

Did not answer the question Too much detail Not enough detail

Something else

2. **Adjust your query.** Follow the prompting tips in the previous section to improve your initial query.
3. **Ask Sherpath AI to try again!** If you're not happy with your response, you can try asking Sherpath AI to provide the information in a different way.

🗣️ **For a response that is too lengthy:** “Can you summarize that in 3 sentences?”

🗣️ **For a response that uses too much medical jargon:** “Can you explain that in simpler terms?”