

Is there a role for AI in durable skills development?: An investigation of student perception

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Background:

We aim to understand how AI might impact the development of durable skills in college. A concern is that using generative AI, like ChatGPT, may hinder the development of critical thinking, problem-solving, research, and analytical skills, potentially affecting both academic and workplace success (Kasneji et al., 2023; Sok & Heng, 2023; Sullivan et al., 2023). As such, we also wanted to know how students perceive the value of these durable skills.

Methods	Results	Takeaways for Faculty
<p>Recruitment: Students were recruited via LS professors during the 2023-2024 academic year.</p> <p>Procedure: Students participated anonymously online, focusing on perceptions of generative AI and transferable skills.</p> <p>Participants: 61 survey responses collected.</p>	<p>Digital Proficiency Gap: High familiarity with ChatGPT but a noted gap in fundamental digital skills and awareness of any other AI tools.</p> <p>Perceived advantages: Wording, time-saving, clarity, learning, idea generation.</p> <p>Perceived disadvantages: Not learning, extra work to check reliability, difficult to use, bias, privacy/ethics.</p> <p>Varied Attitudes: Lack of consensus about the value of AI for durable skills and in education generally. Some expressed enthusiasm towards AI while others were critical of its impacts.</p>	<p>Early days: The impact of AI, like its perceived value to students and potential for skill transference is still being realized.</p> <p>Back to basics: May need to focus on strengthening students' fundamental digital skills in general alongside newer applications like generative AI.</p> <p>Not universal yet: Recognize diverse levels of AI use and perception of value among students.</p> <p>Increase awareness: Highlight when students practice durable skills, especially with AI.</p> <p>Leverage skepticism: Use students' skepticism of AI reliability to enhance durable skills like critical thinking and information literacy.</p> <p>UDL: Use UDL principles to thoughtfully integrate or address AI, durable skills.</p>

References

Kasneji, E., Seßler, K., Küchemann, S., Bannert, M., Dementieva, D., Fischer, F., Gasser, U., Groh, G., Günemann, S., Hüllermeier, E., Krusche, S., Kutyniok, G., Michaeli, T., & Nerdel, C. (2023). Learning and individual differences, 103, 102274. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lindif.2023.102274>