

Statement of Values, Ethics, and Principles for Artificial Intelligence at UNM¹²

1. Introduction

AI is changing how universities teach, learn, conduct research, provide care, support operations, and serve the public. At UNM, AI decisions should be guided by the University's mission, values, and responsibilities to the people and communities we serve.

This guidance organizes ethical AI decision-making at UNM around three complementary lenses.

- 1.1. **Purpose:** *Human-centered AI* defines the purpose of AI use, which is to advance human dignity, agency, equity, learning, creativity, care, access, community respect, and human flourishing.
- 1.2. **Conditions:** *Trustworthy AI* defines the conditions for responsible AI use, which include transparency, accountability, privacy, security, integrity, institutional sovereignty, and meaningful opportunities for explanation, critical evaluation, and redress.
- 1.3. **Constraints:** *Sustainability and environmental stewardship* require that AI decisions also account for their environmental, material, fiscal, social, and ethical costs.

In this statement, *UNM* refers to the University acting through its governance, policies, services, and authorized representatives. *UNM community members* refers to individuals participating in UNM's educational, research, clinical, administrative, and public-service activities. References to *people or communities affected by AI* include both UNM community members and others affected by UNM's development, governance, or use of AI.

2. Human-Centered AI

Human-centered AI is grounded in UNM's ethical obligation to ensure that AI supports human agency, flourishing, equity, and community well-being.

¹ The guidance in this statement was developed through an iterative human-AI process. The UNM AI Steering Committee established the principles, provided the source materials, and made all substantive decisions. Generative AI assisted with drafting, synthesis, organization, and editing. The committee reviewed and revised each section before approval.

² Final draft completed July 23, 2026.

- 2.1. **Human Agency and Autonomy:** AI should augment rather than replace human judgment, expertise, responsibility, and relationships.
- 2.2. **Human Flourishing:** AI should advance learning, creativity, reflection, dignity, care, and meaningful participation in ways that help individuals and communities grow and contribute.
- 2.3. **Access:** UNM should provide affordable and meaningful access to AI tools, resources, training, and support that expand opportunities for members of the UNM community.
- 2.4. **Equitable Use:** AI should be used in ways that mitigate bias and discrimination, protect civil rights and civil liberties, and support inclusive participation across varied abilities, identities, roles, and communities.
- 2.5. **Community Respect and Sovereignty:** UNM should respect community authority, Indigenous sovereignty, and culturally grounded knowledge, data, and expression through consent, reciprocity, responsible stewardship, and accountability to affected communities.

3. Trustworthy AI

Trustworthy AI is grounded in UNM's ethical obligation to ensure that AI use, systems, and governance are worthy of trust by preserving human relationships and avoiding harm.

- 3.1. **Trustworthy Relationships:** AI guidance should support relationships grounded in clear expectations, good-faith judgment, and shared responsibility that foster trust.
- 3.2. **Accountability and Redress:** UNM is accountable for the AI systems it adopts and governs. UNM community members are responsible for how they use AI and for the professional or academic work they produce with its assistance. When AI is used in consequential decisions, people affected by AI use at UNM should have meaningful opportunities for explanation, contestation, and redress.
- 3.3. **Transparency and Data Choice:** UNM should inform people when AI may materially affect their learning, work, care, rights, or opportunities and, where feasible, provide meaningful choice about how their personally identifiable information is collected, retained, shared, or used to develop AI systems.
- 3.4. **Privacy, Security, and Safety:** UNM and UNM community members should protect privacy, data rights, security, and safety in AI use, especially when confidential, regulated, or otherwise sensitive information may be involved.
- 3.5. **Integrity, Verification, and Disclosure:** UNM community members should review, verify, and represent AI-assisted work honestly, disclosing sources, AI assistance, and relevant limitations where appropriate.

- 3.6. **AI Sovereignty and Continuity:** UNM should plan AI systems and contracts to preserve institutional sovereignty, organizational control, continuity, and portability while minimizing unnecessary dependence on vendors.
- 3.7. **Creative and Cultural Rights:** UNM community members should use AI in ways that respect intellectual property, attribution, creative identity, likeness, voice, and cultural or community-based rights.

4. Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship

Sustainability and environmental stewardship are grounded in UNM's ethical obligation to minimize the environmental impacts of AI use, systems, and governance.

- 4.1. **Environmental Costs:** UNM should seek to understand, measure, and limit AI-related environmental costs, including energy and water use, carbon impact, resource use and supply chains, and hardware lifecycles.
- 4.2. **Responsible Use:** UNM and its community members should use AI with judgment, considering whether AI use is necessary, resource-appropriate, and aligned with individual goals and the institutional mission.
- 4.3. **Environmental Justice:** UNM should avoid AI practices that shift environmental costs onto communities already bearing disproportionate environmental burdens, particularly Indigenous and rural New Mexican communities.
- 4.4. **Scholarly Research and Community Engagement:** UNM should use its knowledge, research capacity, teaching mission, and public-service role to help identify, measure, interpret, and reduce the environmental costs of AI.

5. Applying the Principles

The principles in this statement guide decisions about the development, procurement, deployment, governance, and use of AI at UNM. UNM and UNM community members should consider whether AI use is human-centered, trustworthy, and sustainable.

- 5.1. **Institutional Responsibilities:** UNM is responsible for creating the conditions that support ethical AI use. This includes governance, approved tools where appropriate, guidance, training, review of higher risk uses, privacy and security safeguards, accessibility review, accountability mechanisms and pathways for reporting concerns, correcting errors, and seeking redress. UNM should preserve institutional sovereignty, control, and continuity in AI systems, avoiding unnecessary dependence on vendors. UNM should also consult affected

communities when AI uses may significantly affect them and consider environmental impacts in AI-related decisions.

- 5.2. **Community Responsibilities:** UNM community members are responsible for using AI honestly, thoughtfully, and consistently with applicable laws, policies, professional standards, course expectations, and community obligations. This includes understanding when AI use is permitted or limited, evaluating and verifying AI outputs, disclosing AI assistance where appropriate, protecting sensitive information, respecting creative and cultural rights, and avoiding uses that misrepresent human work or bypass required learning, professional, clinical, or research judgment.
- 5.3. **Resolving Tensions:** The principles may sometimes point in different directions. When they do, UNM and UNM community members should resolve tensions through transparent, context-sensitive deliberation that considers people affected by AI, potential benefits and harms, legal and ethical obligations, environmental costs, and the University's mission.
- 5.4. **When AI Should Not Be Used:** The availability of an AI system does not justify its use. AI should not be used when it cannot be implemented in ways that are human-centered, trustworthy, and sustainable. AI should also not be used when its benefits are unclear, its risks cannot be responsibly governed, or a non-AI approach would better serve UNM's mission. The decision not to use AI may sometimes be the most ethical, effective, or mission-aligned choice.
- 5.5. **Proportionate Governance:** UNM should govern AI in proportion to risk. Lower risk uses may be addressed through guidance, training, transparency, and individual responsibility. Higher risk uses, especially those affecting rights, opportunities, safety, privacy, employment, healthcare, research integrity, intellectual property, academic standing, fiscal interests, or public trust, require stronger safeguards, review, documentation, accountability, and oversight.
- 5.6. **Continuous Adaptation:** AI technologies, practices, risks, and opportunities will continue to evolve. UNM's guidance should remain adaptive, evidence informed, and open to ongoing learning, assessment, and revision.

AI at UNM should be used when it advances human and institutional purposes, can be governed in trustworthy ways, respects people and communities, and remains proportionate to its environmental and social costs.