

# Undergraduate Perspectives on AI at CU Boulder

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# Agenda

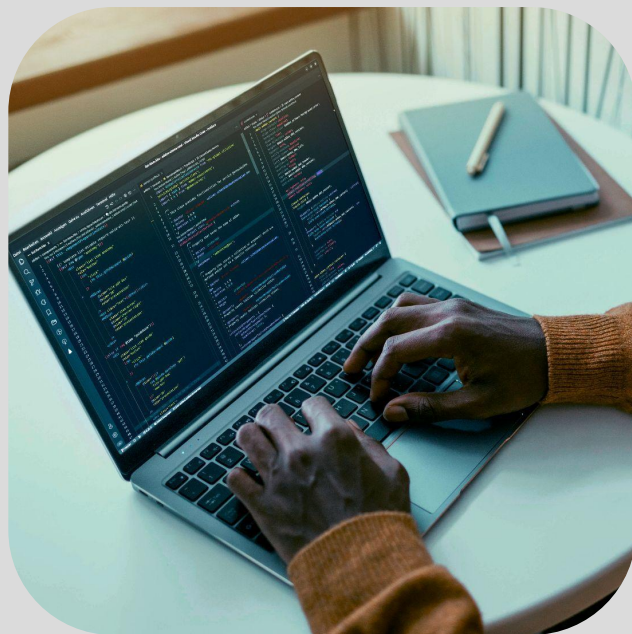
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| 1 | Introduction               |
| 2 | Recruitment & Demographics |
| 3 | Preliminary Analyses       |
| 4 | Q&A                        |

# Introduction

**Timeline:** Survey conducted March '25, with follow-up interviews April-May '25

## Research Questions:

1. What are CU Boulder students' attitudes toward and knowledge of generative AI?
2. How and why do CU Boulder students use generative AI in an educational context?
3. What generative AI training and policies do CU Boulder students want to see going forward?



# Demographics

- More or less representative of CU breakdown in terms of:
  - College, Class Level, Race
- Gender: CU breakdown vs survey breakdown



## CU Breakdown

Women - 46.6%

Men - 53.4%



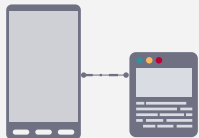
## Survey Respondents

Women - 60.5%

Men - 36.2%

Non-binary, Genderqueer/Gender - 5.2%  
non-conforming, Agender

I'd rather not say/not listed - 0.9%



# Recruitment

- Distributed by professors, physical flyers, and banner on Canvas
- Respondent incentives for taking survey: extra credit or entry into a gift card raffle
- 3084 respondents

## HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT AI?

Are you over the age of 18 & a CU Boulder undergraduate? Fill out this 15-minute survey on AI attitudes and usage for a chance to win one of 30 \$25 Amazon gift cards



*Click the link,  
scan the QR  
code, or use  
the link below!*

<http://bit.ly/4aV7pJZ>

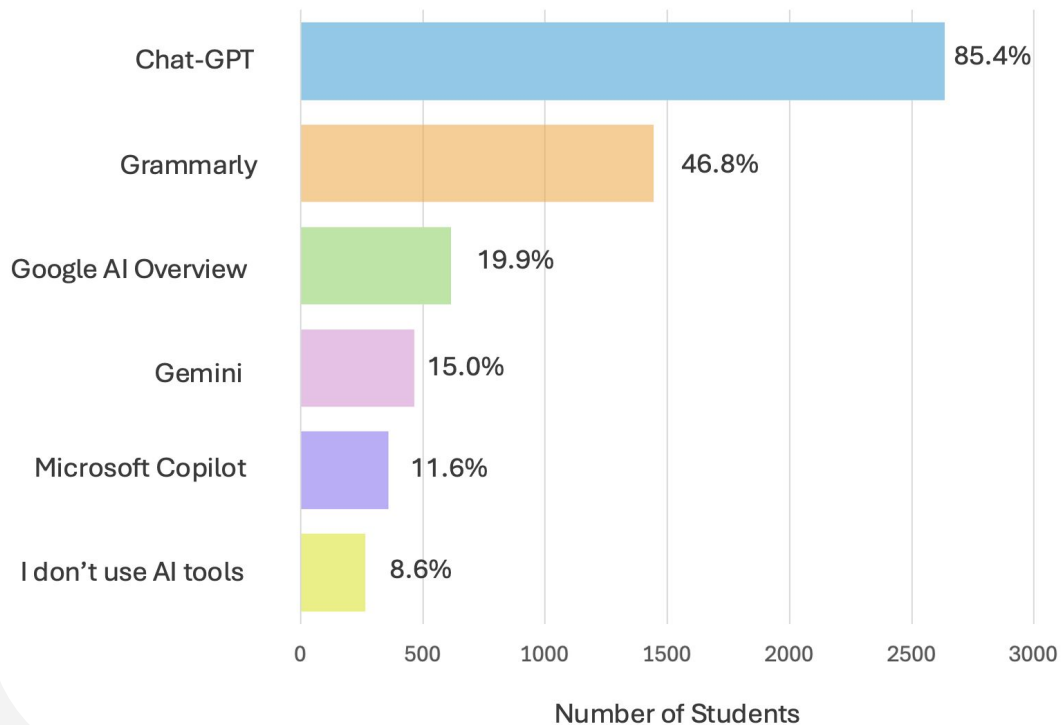
Questions? Email Rebecca Lee at  
[rebecca.lee@colorado.edu](mailto:rebecca.lee@colorado.edu)

# **General AI Use & Attitudes**

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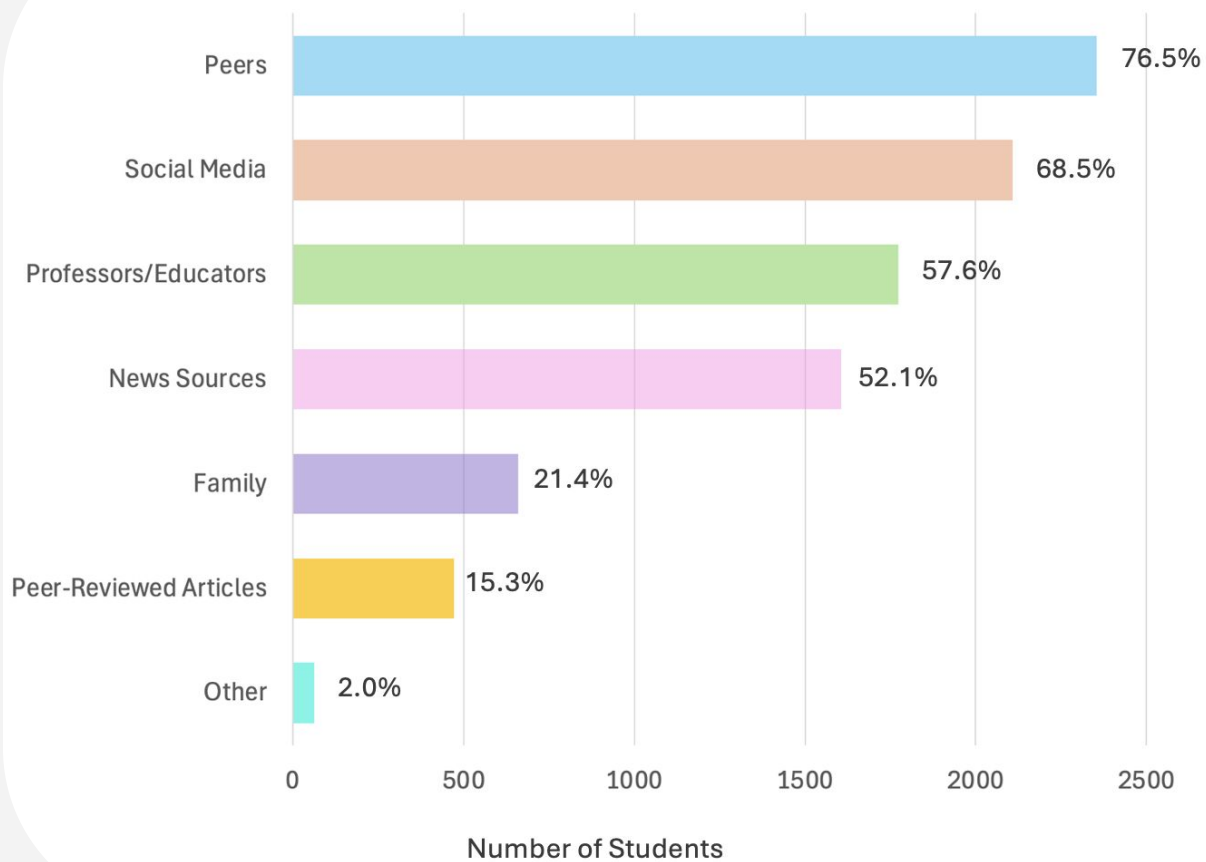


### Which AI-powered tools do you use?\*



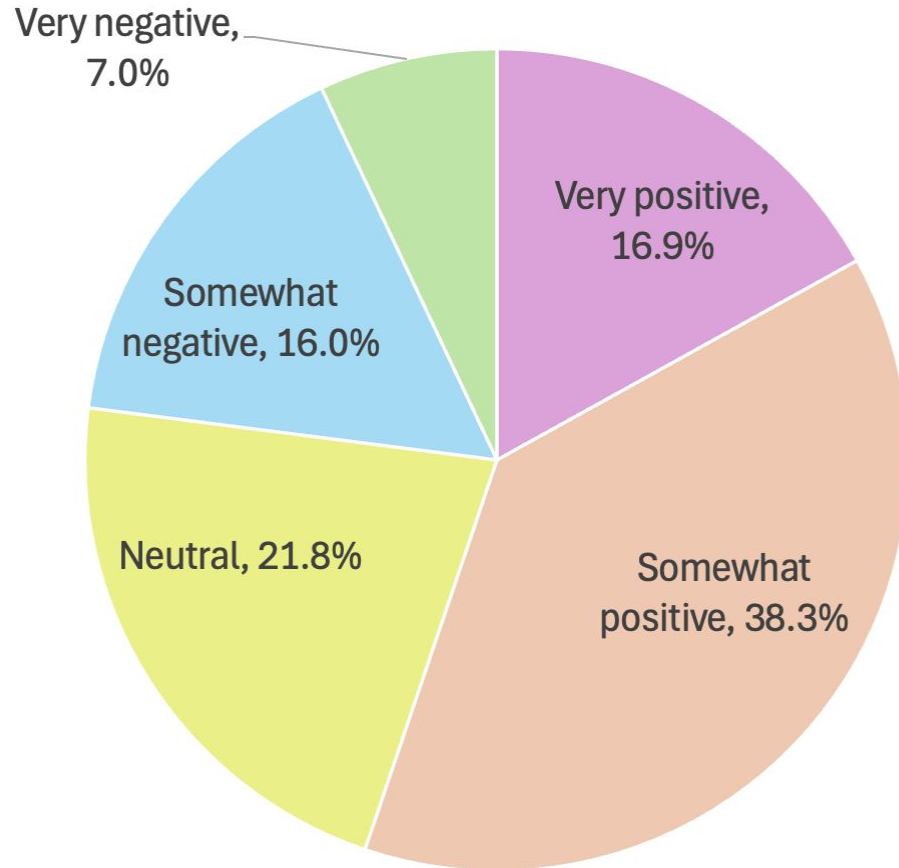
\*Top 5 are displayed; total percentage is above 100% as students checked multiple boxes

### Where do you typically get information about AI?





## How would you rate your overall attitude toward AI?

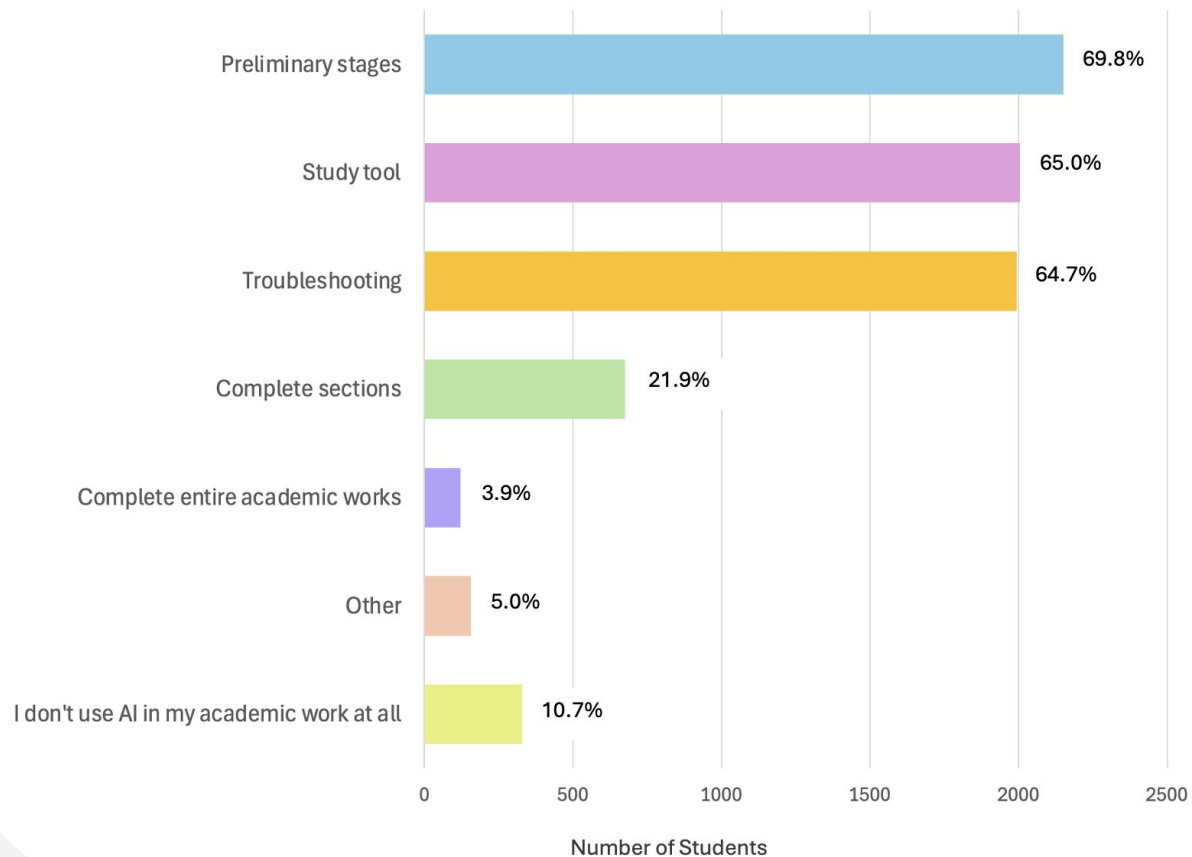


# Academic Use of AI

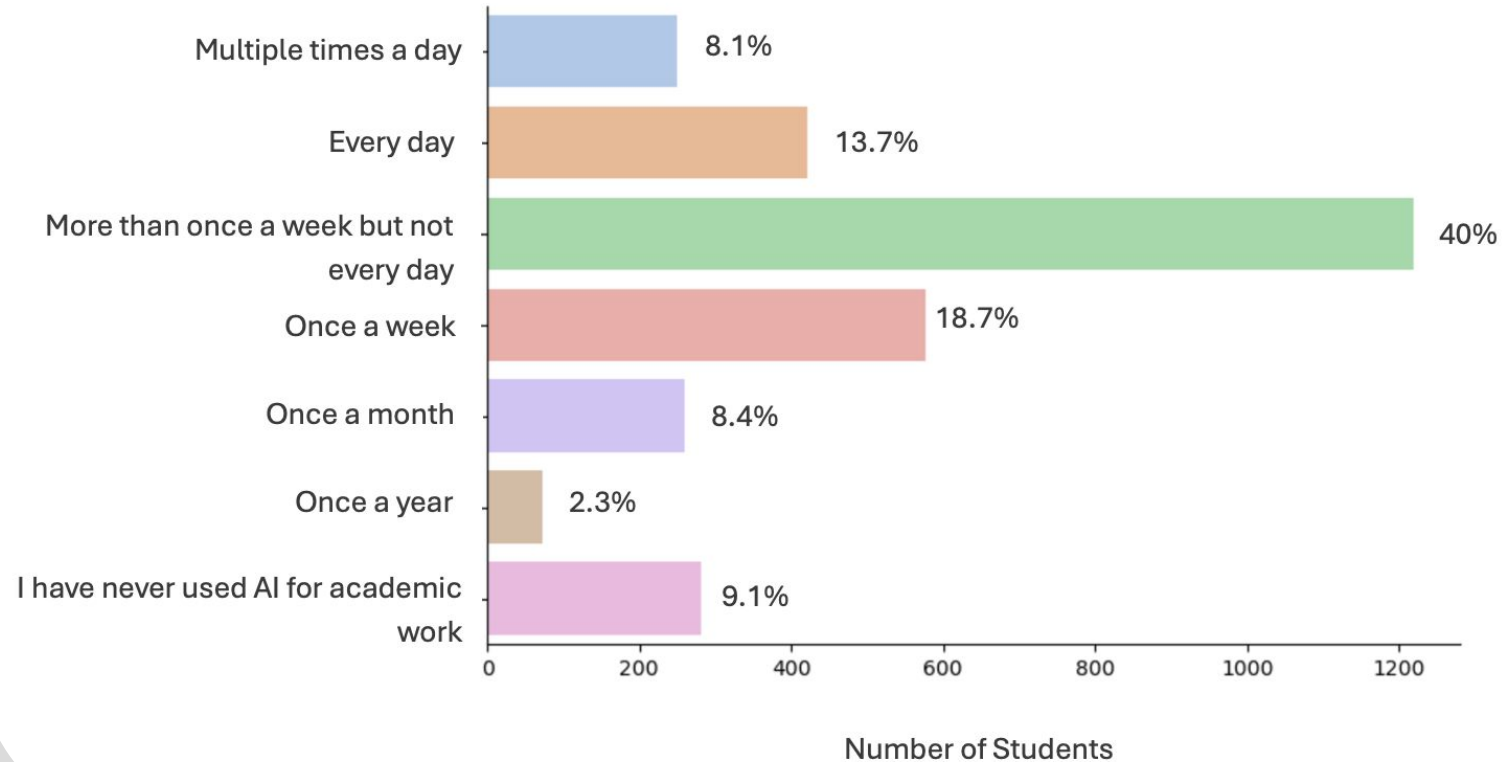
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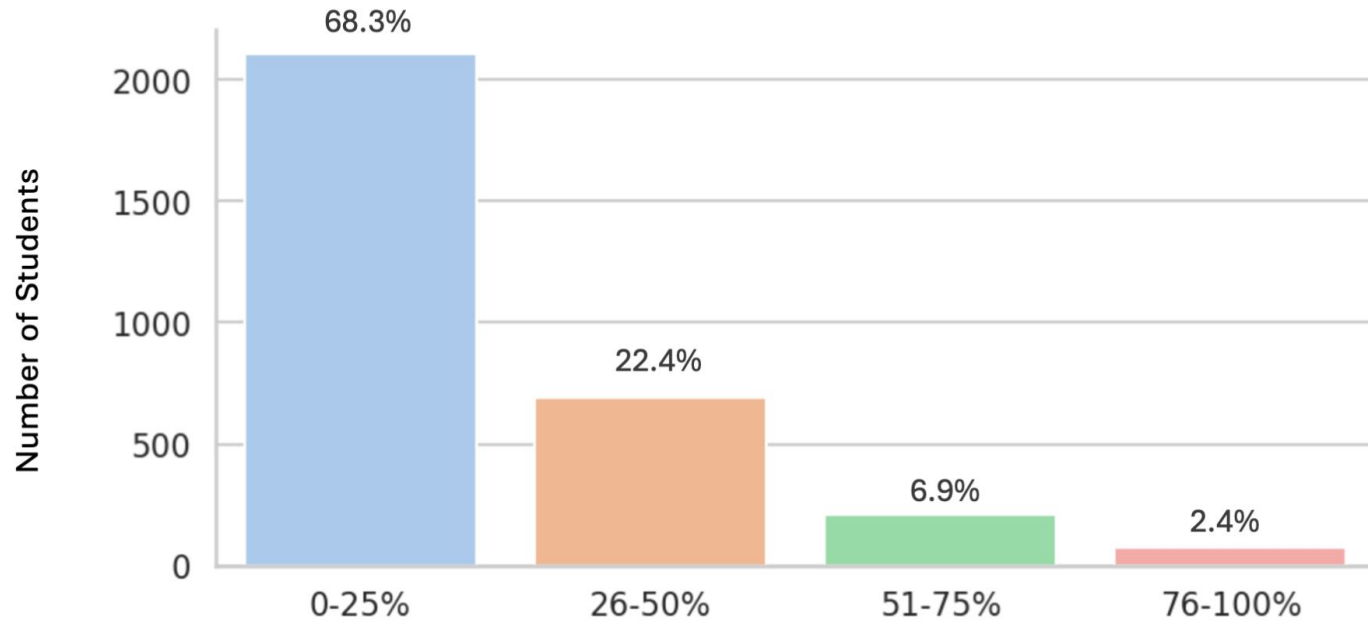
### What kinds of academic work do you use AI for?



How often do you use AI for academic work? Please exclude cases where AI use is required.



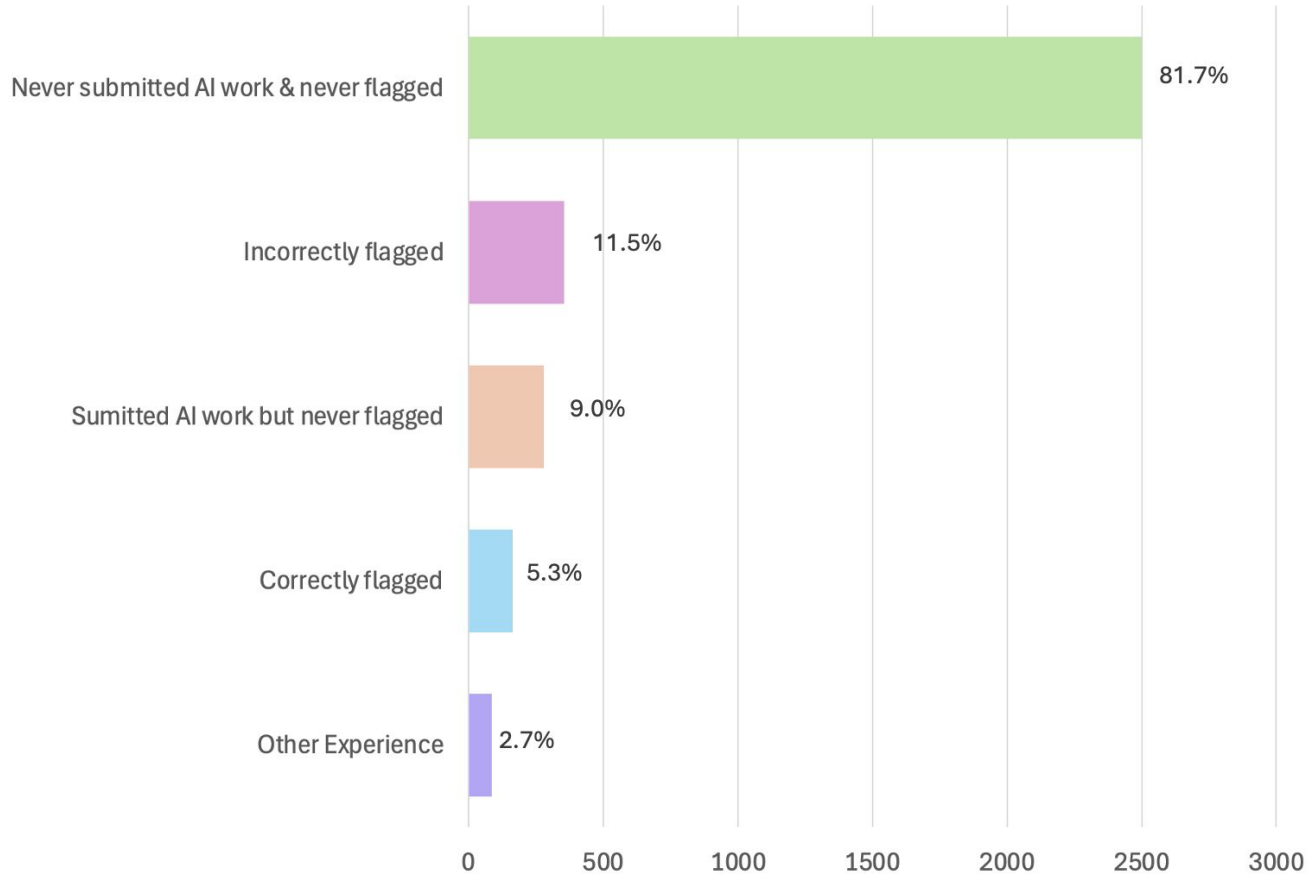
What percentage of your academic work do you use AI for?



# Main Takeaways

- Widespread, consistent use (as shown by frequency stats)
- 68% of participants use AI on less than quarter of assignments
- AI use is not always “malicious”
- Not just for cutting corners, often used in helpful/supportive ways
- Promoting disclosure & opening conversations

### Have you had any assignment identified as AI generated by an instructor or grader?



# Have you had any assignment identified as AI generated by an instructor or grader?

Please exclude situations in which AI use was allowed. You may select more than one item.

- ★ I have had an assignment correctly identified as fully or partly AI generated.
- ★ I have had an assignment identified as AI generated even though I did not submit any exact AI output in the assignment.
- ★ My work has never been identified as AI generated even though I have submitted exact AI output for all or part of an assignment.
- ★ My work has never been identified as AI generated, and I have never submitted exact AI output in an assignment.
- ★ Other experience (Please explain below)



# Reasons Why Students Use/Don't Use AI

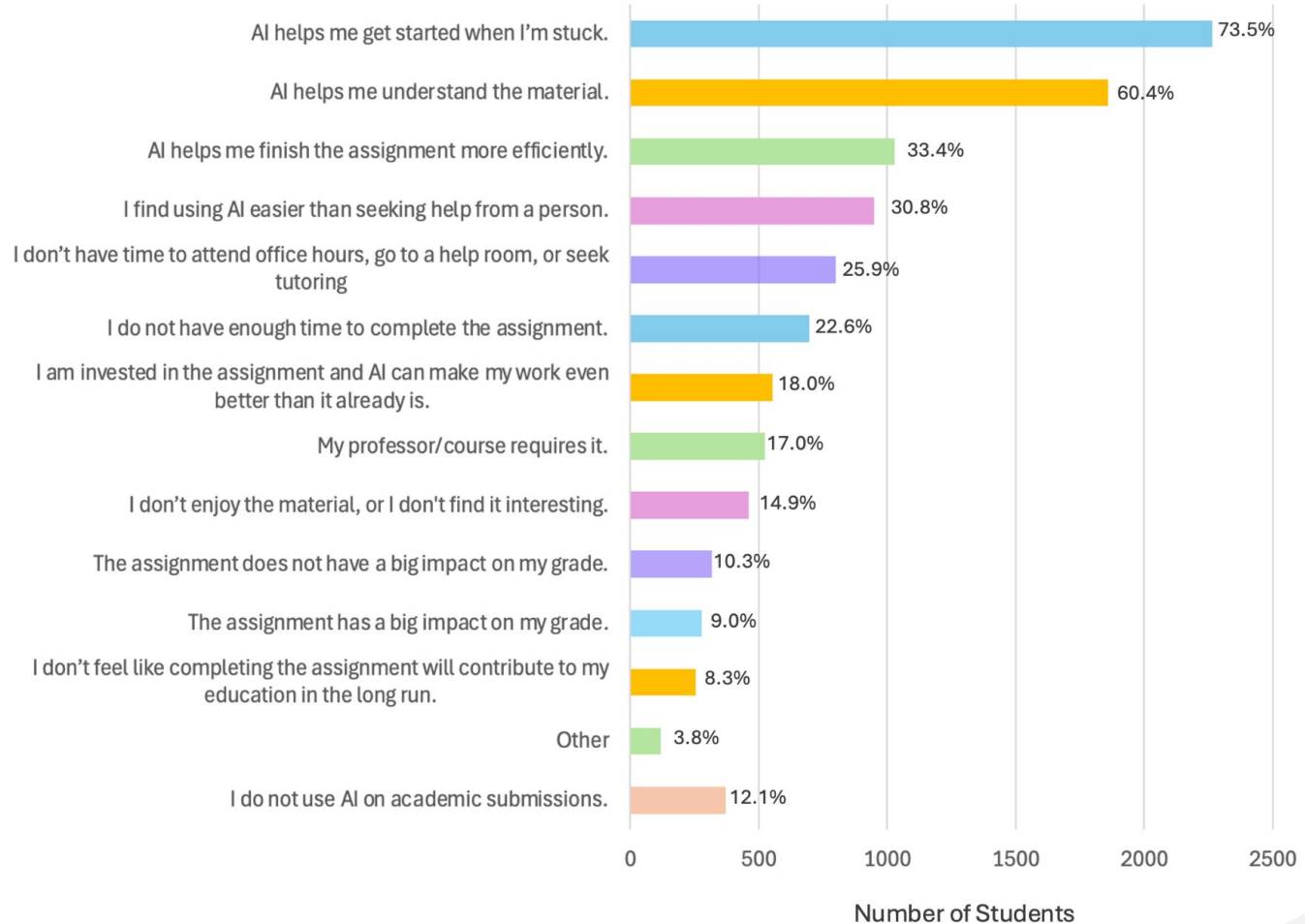
## Reasons to Use

- Stuck on an assignment, need help understanding material, in-person help is not available
- **Implications:** More resources in more accessible formats need to be offered.

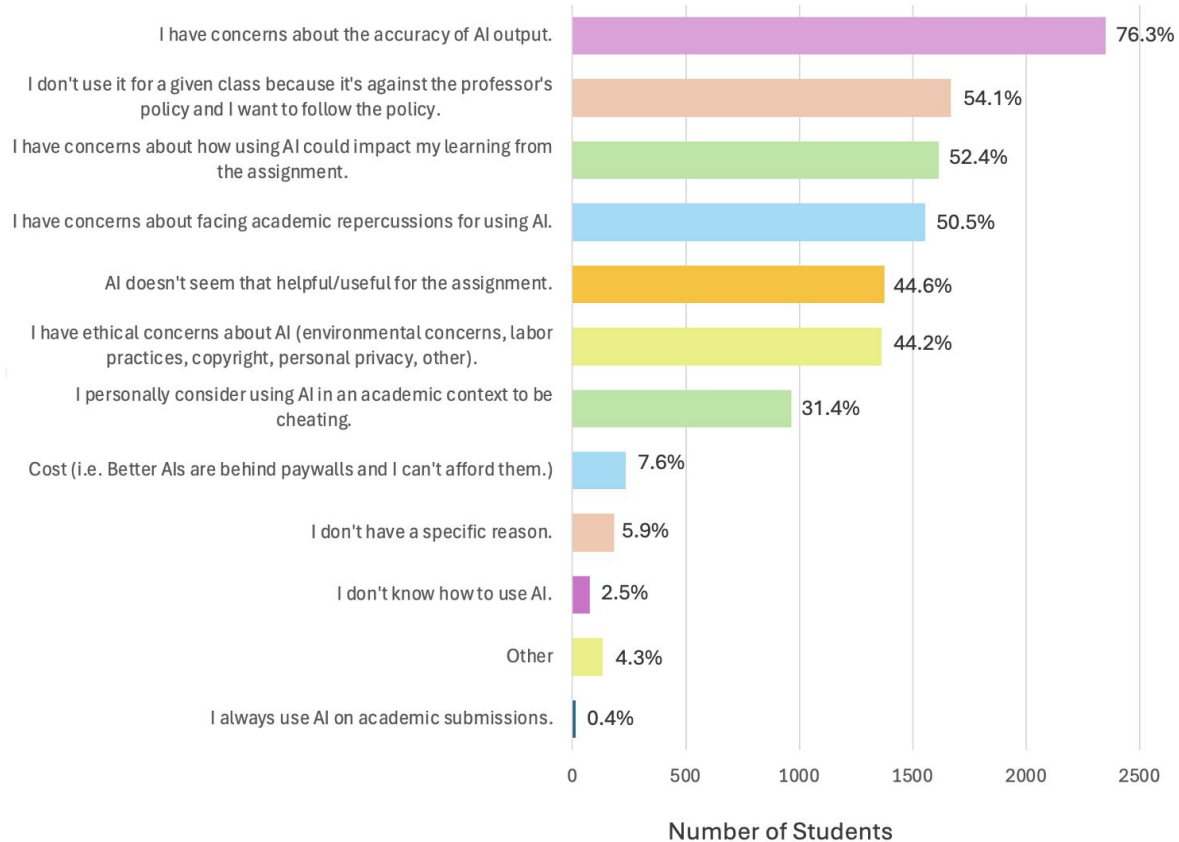
## Reasons Not to Use

- Lack of accuracy, respecting policy, negative impact on learning
- **Implications:** People care about their education, professors can tap into that.

## When you decide to use AI for a given assignment, what are the main reasons that drive your decision?



When you decide NOT to use AI for a given assignment, what are the main reasons that drive your decision?

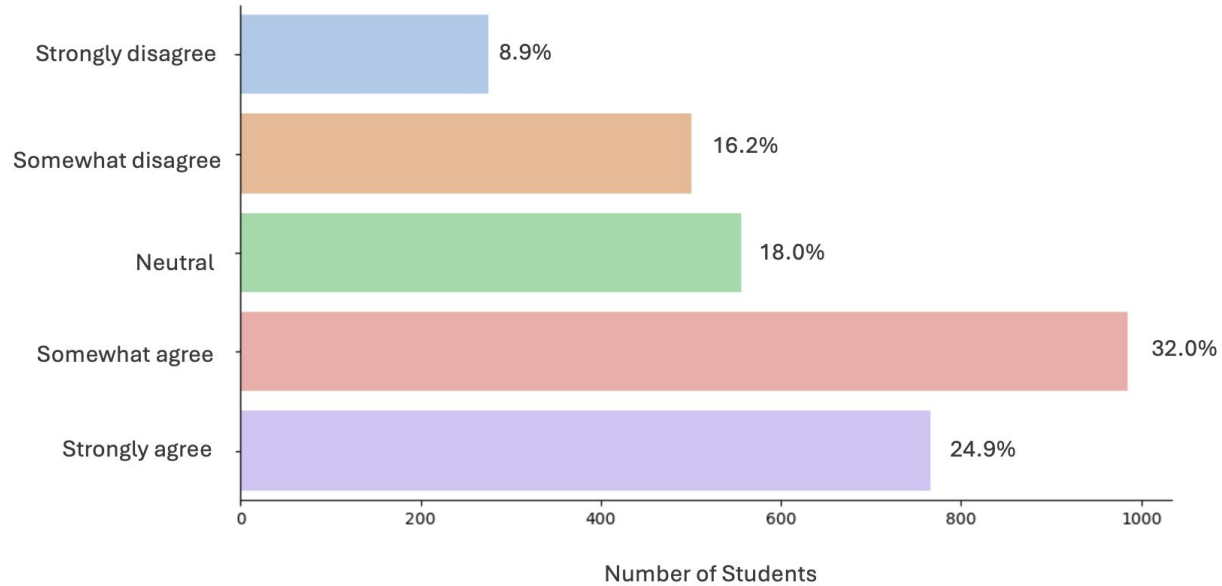


# **Future AI Policies & Practices**

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I believe AI will play a big role in my future career.

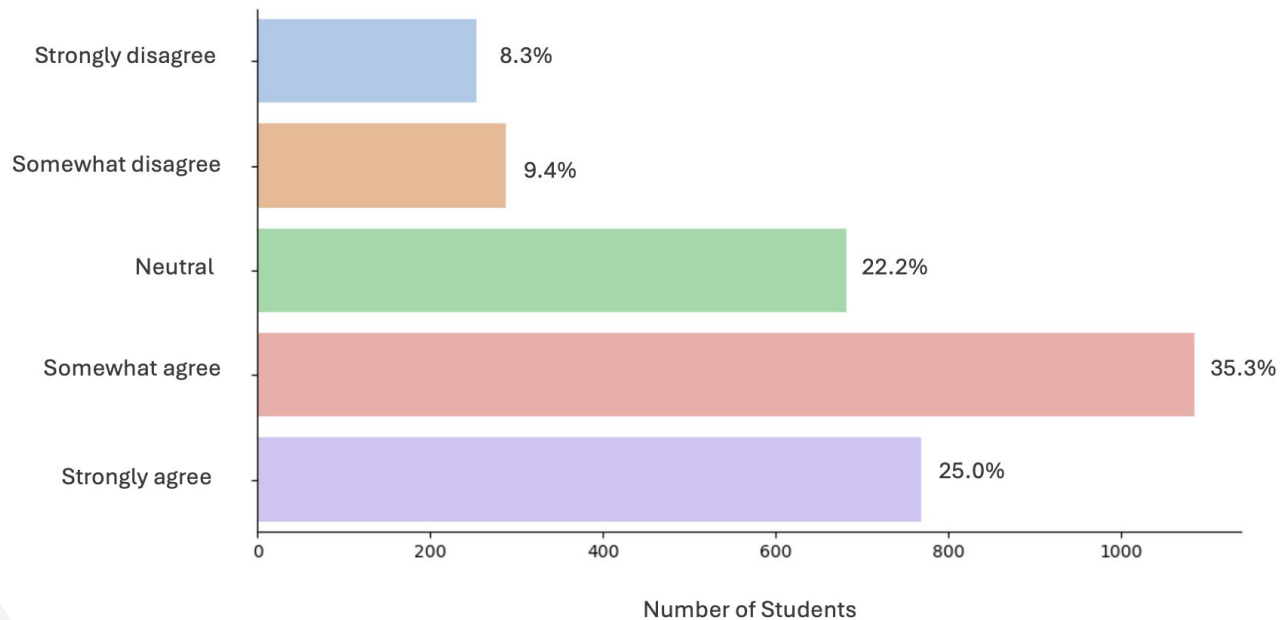


# Learning About AI

- The following percentage of respondents somewhat or strongly agreed it would be useful to learn more about...
  - Prompt engineering – 60.3%
  - How AI models work – 65.3%
  - The ethics behind AI use – 71.9%
  - How AI can be used in their future career – 65%
  - How AI can and cannot improve their academic work and learning – 68.6%

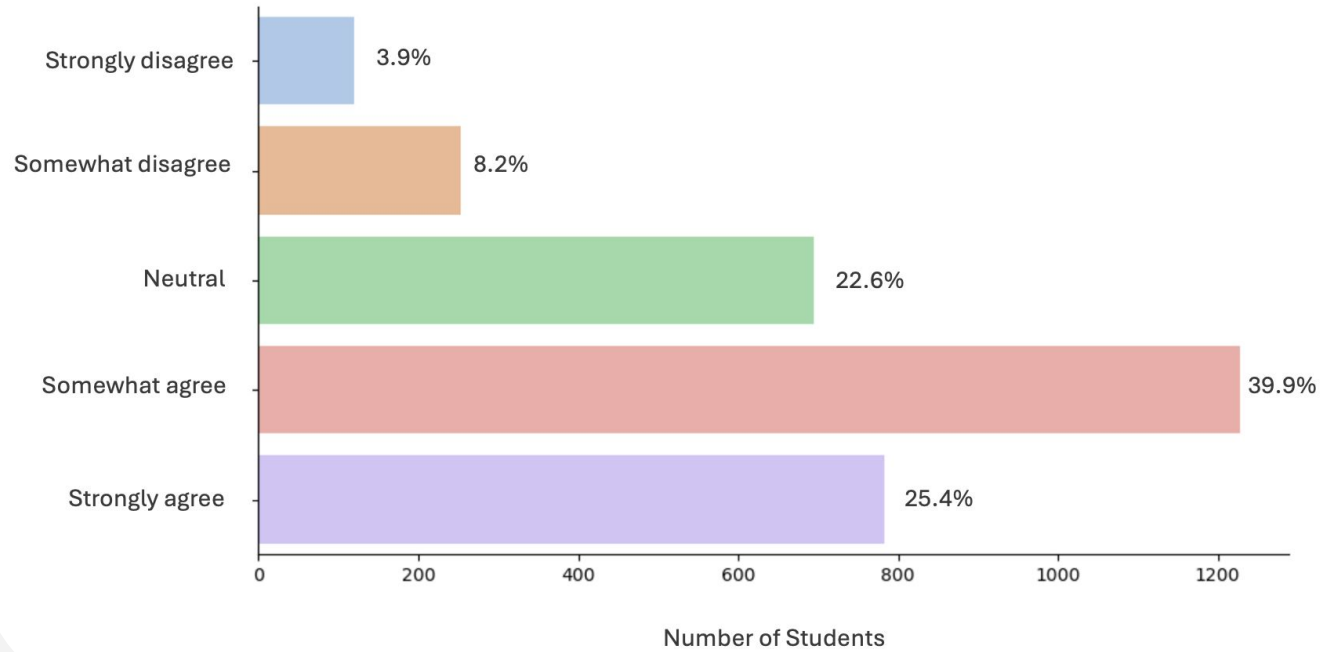
I would find it useful to learn more about...

How to improve my prompts to get better output (prompt engineer).



I would find it useful to learn more about...

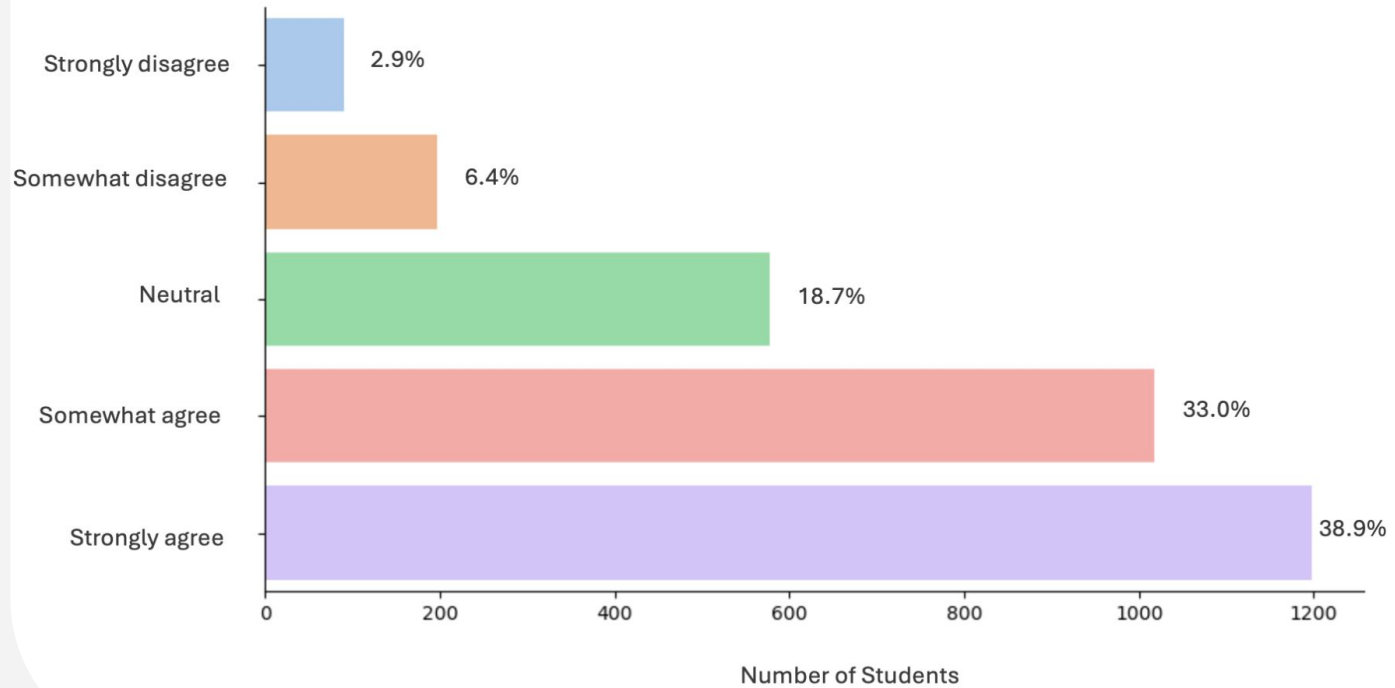
How AI models work.





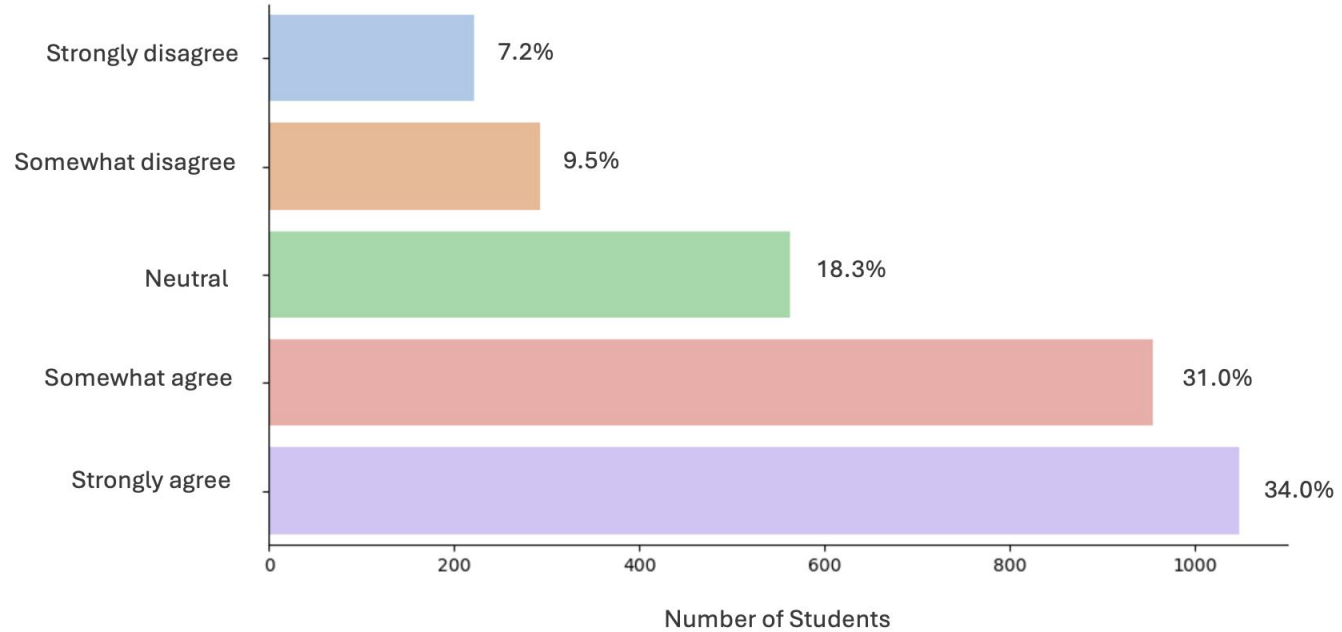
I would find it useful to learn more about...

The ethics behind AI use.



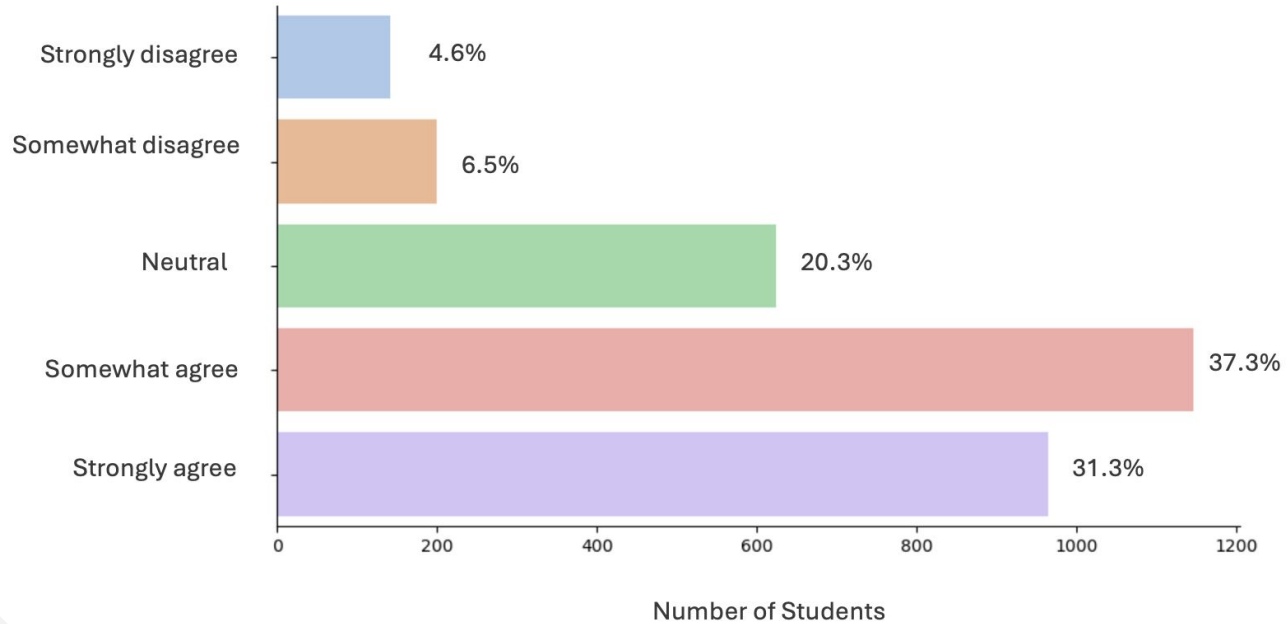
I would find it useful to learn more about...

How to use AI in my future career.



I would find it useful to learn more about...

What AI can and cannot do to improve my academic work and learning.



# Learning About AI

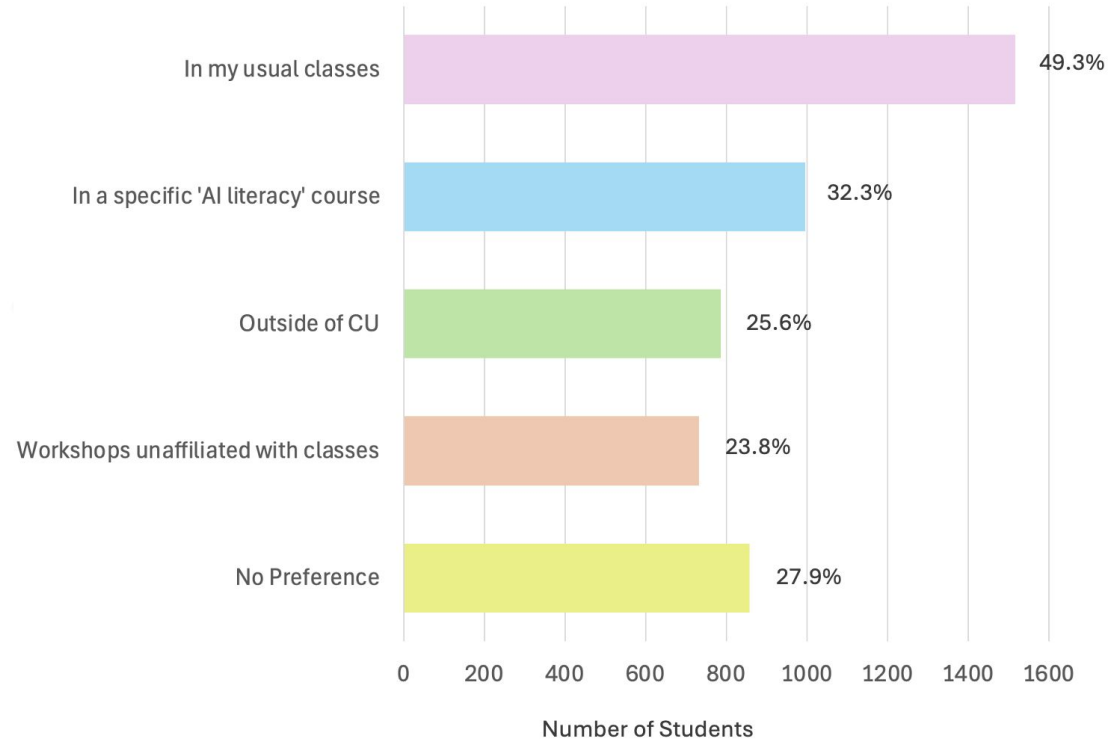
## Data:

- 49% want to learn about AI in their usual CU classes.
- 32% want to learn about AI in a specific AI literacy course.

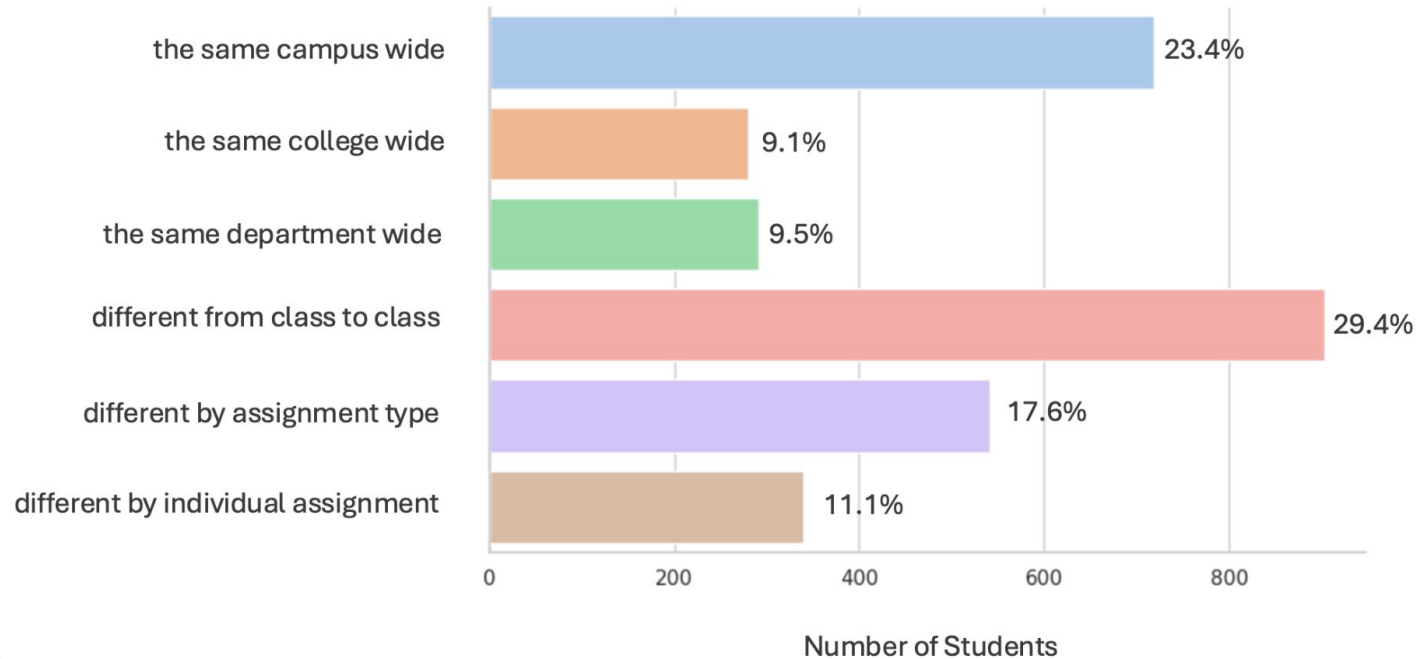
## Implications:

- Students want to learn about AI from CU Boulder.
- This can also help stem misinformation about AI – students want more reputable sources of information.

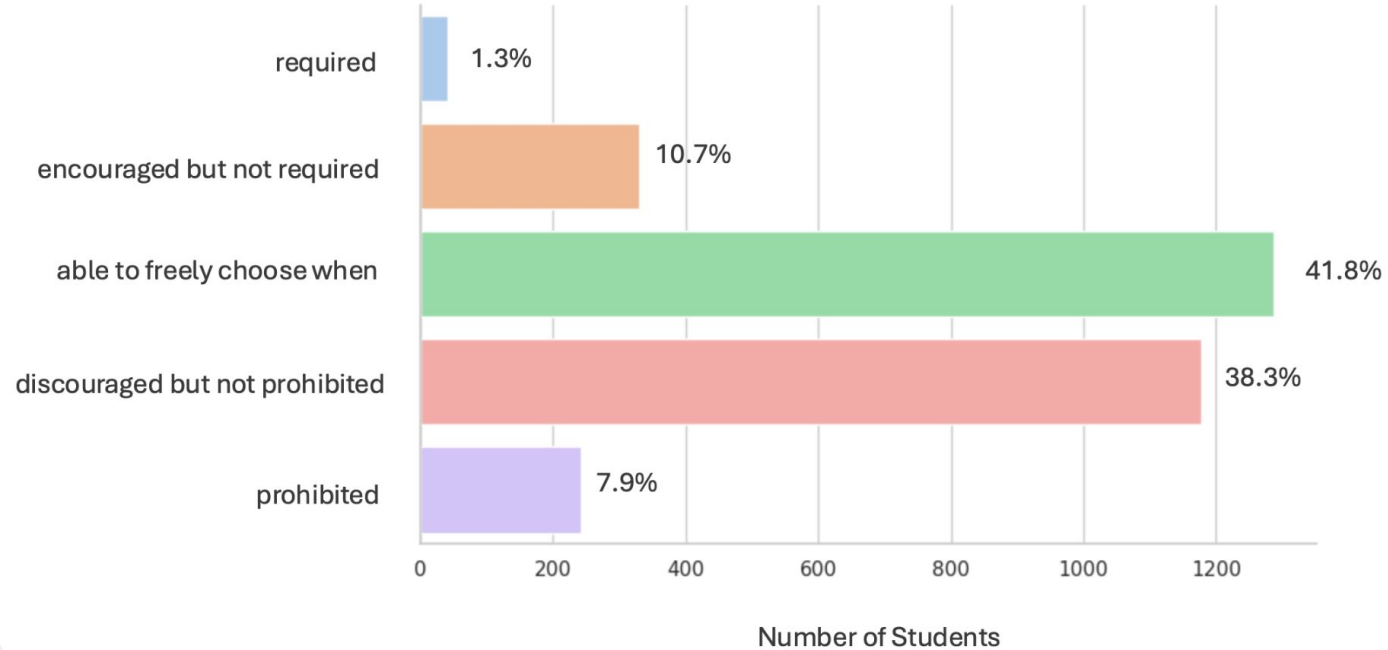
Where would you like to learn the skills and information from the previous question?  
Choose all that apply.



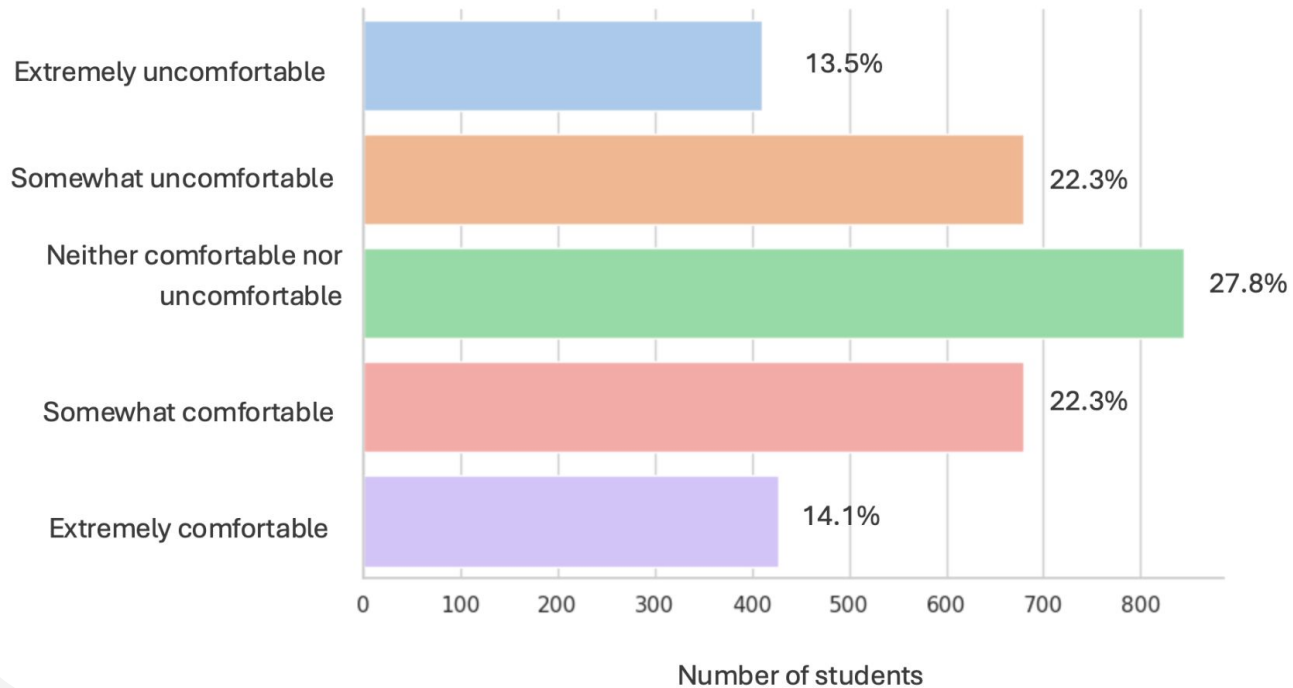
At CU, I want the AI policy to be \_\_\_\_\_.



I think students should be \_\_\_\_\_ to use AI in their classes at CU.

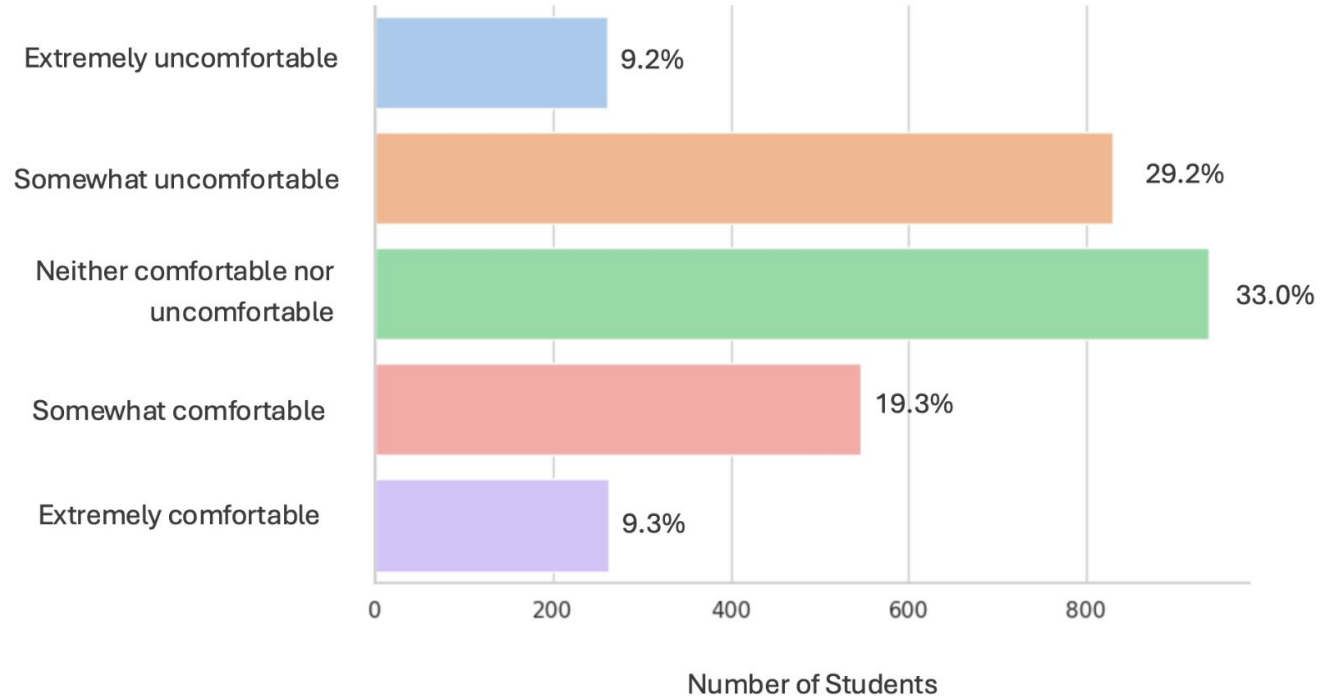


How comfortable would you be with students being required to use AI in a class at CU?





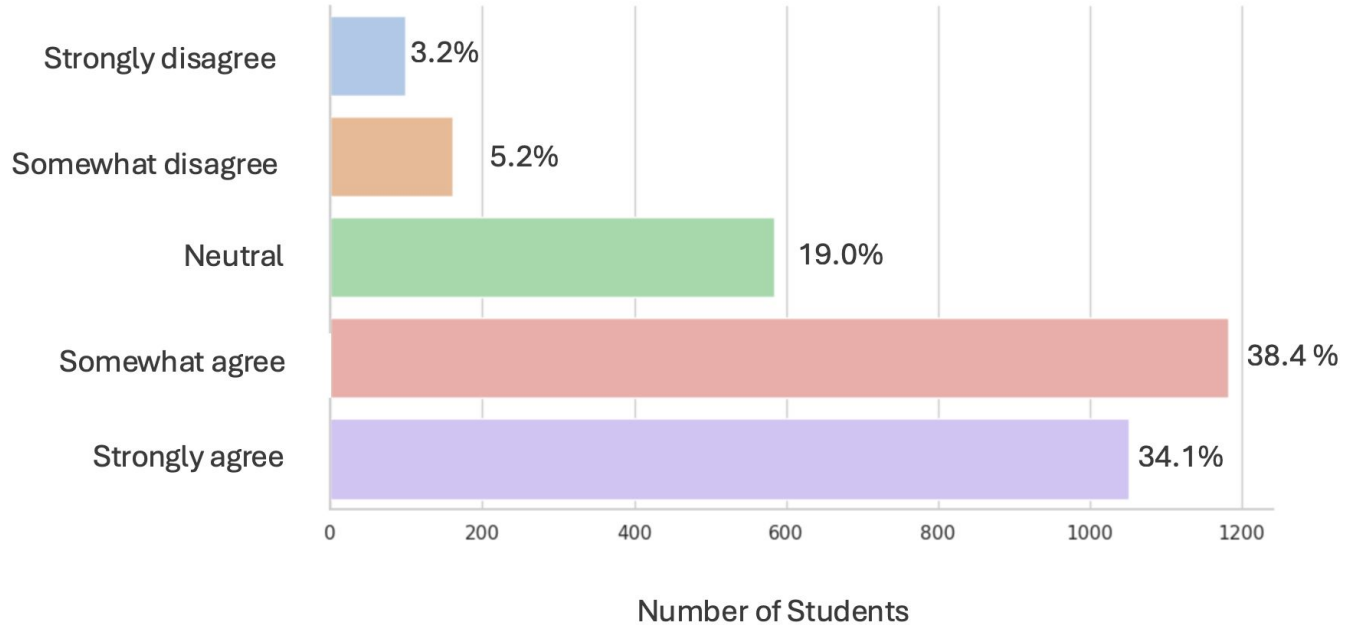
How comfortable would you be with students being prohibited from using AI in a class at CU?



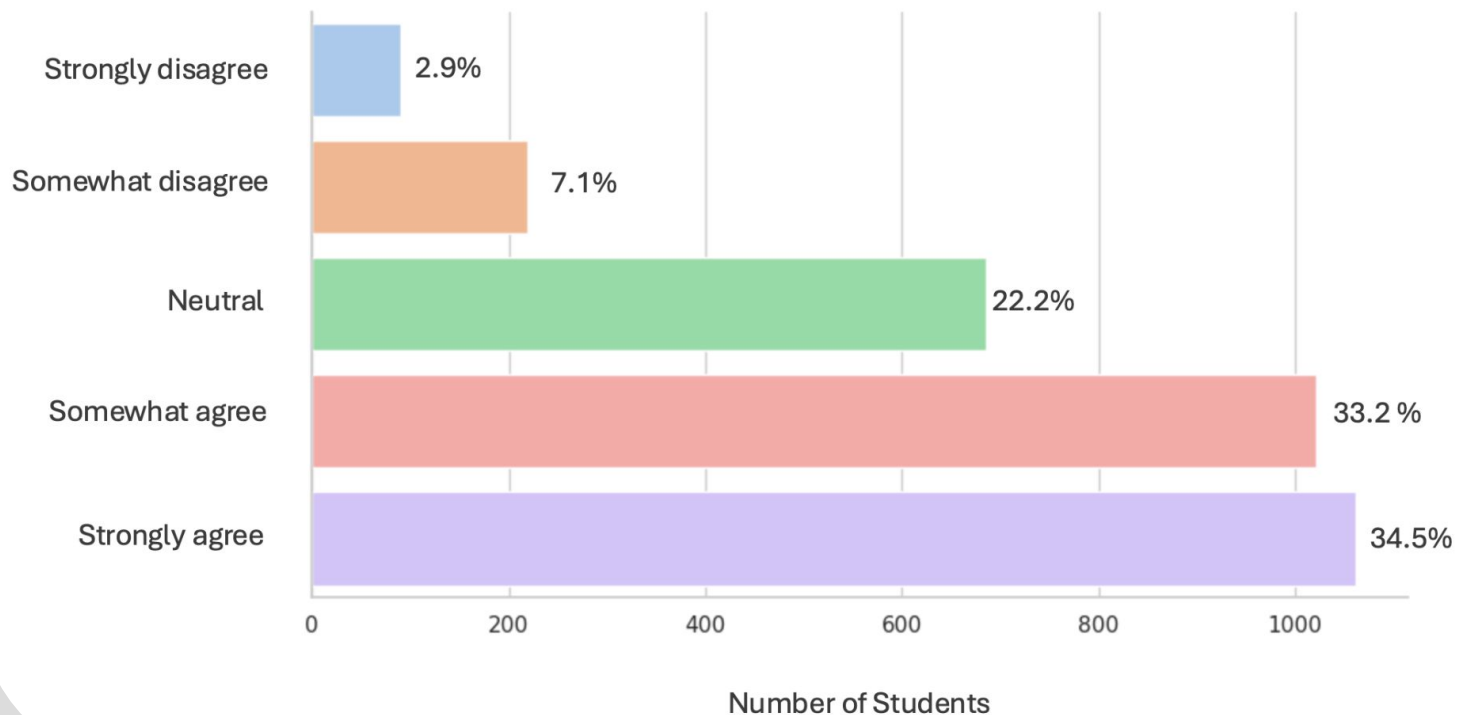
# Other Key Findings

- Students want guidance from their professors on acceptable AI use in their class.
- Over half of respondents were uncomfortable with professors using AI to grade their assignments.
- Over half of respondents were comfortable with AI detectors being used.
- *Communication is key.* Students want disclosure and honesty.
- Policies on how instructors should use AI may be helpful.

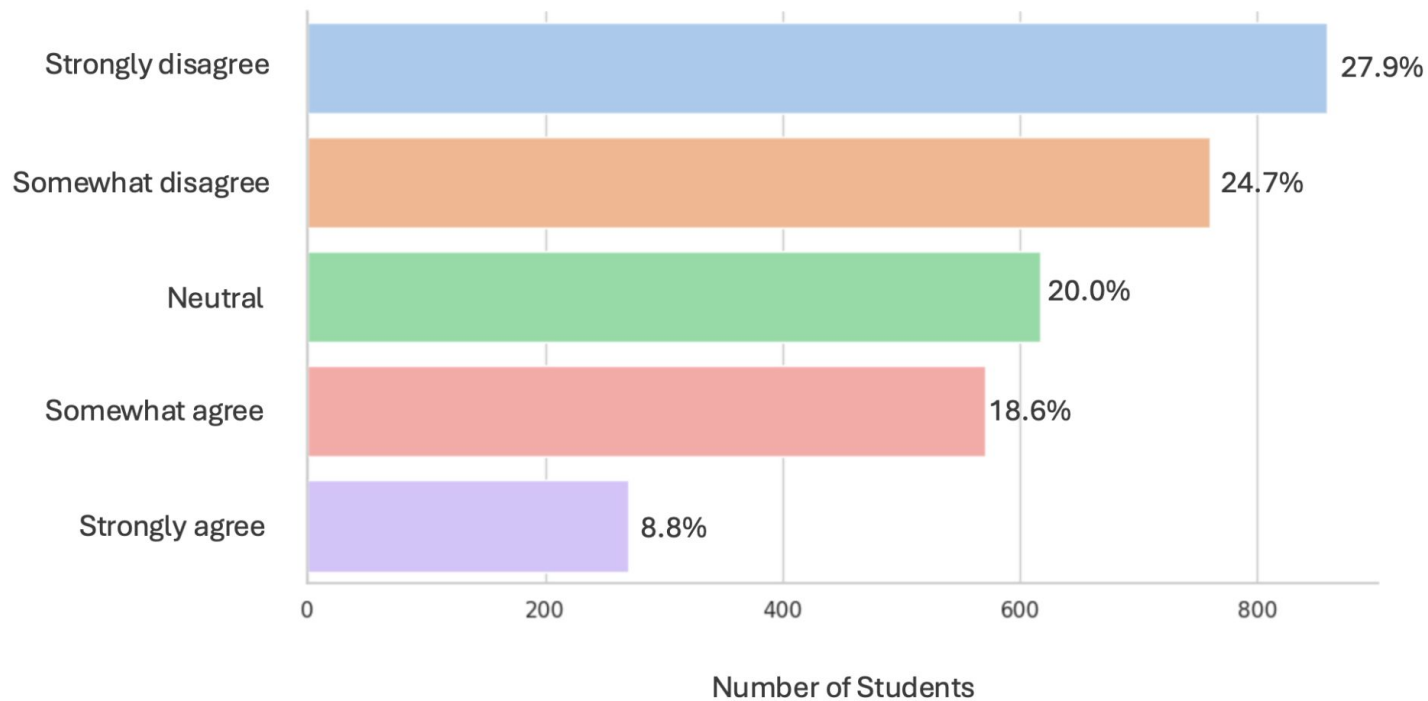
I would like guidance from my professors on acceptable AI use in class.



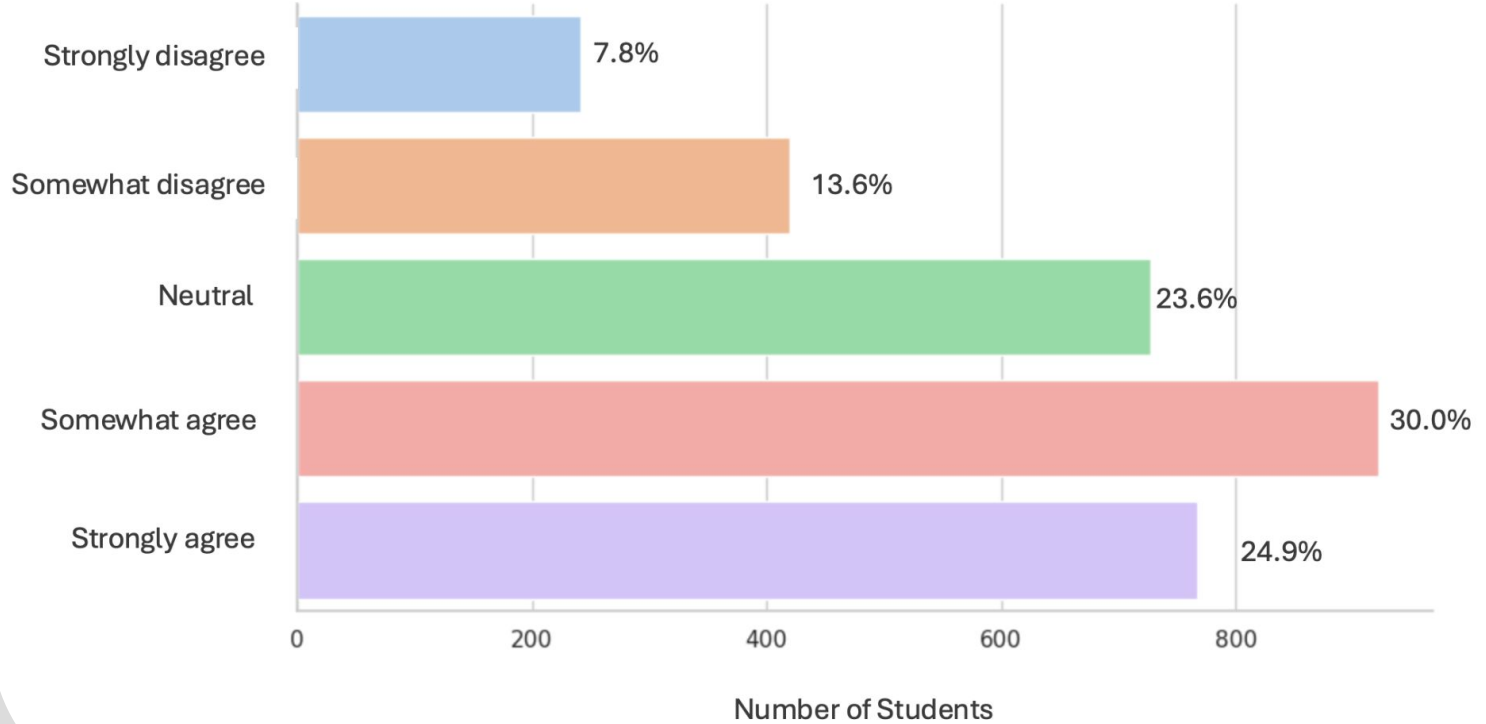
If AI use was permitted in class, I would be comfortable disclosing my AI use.



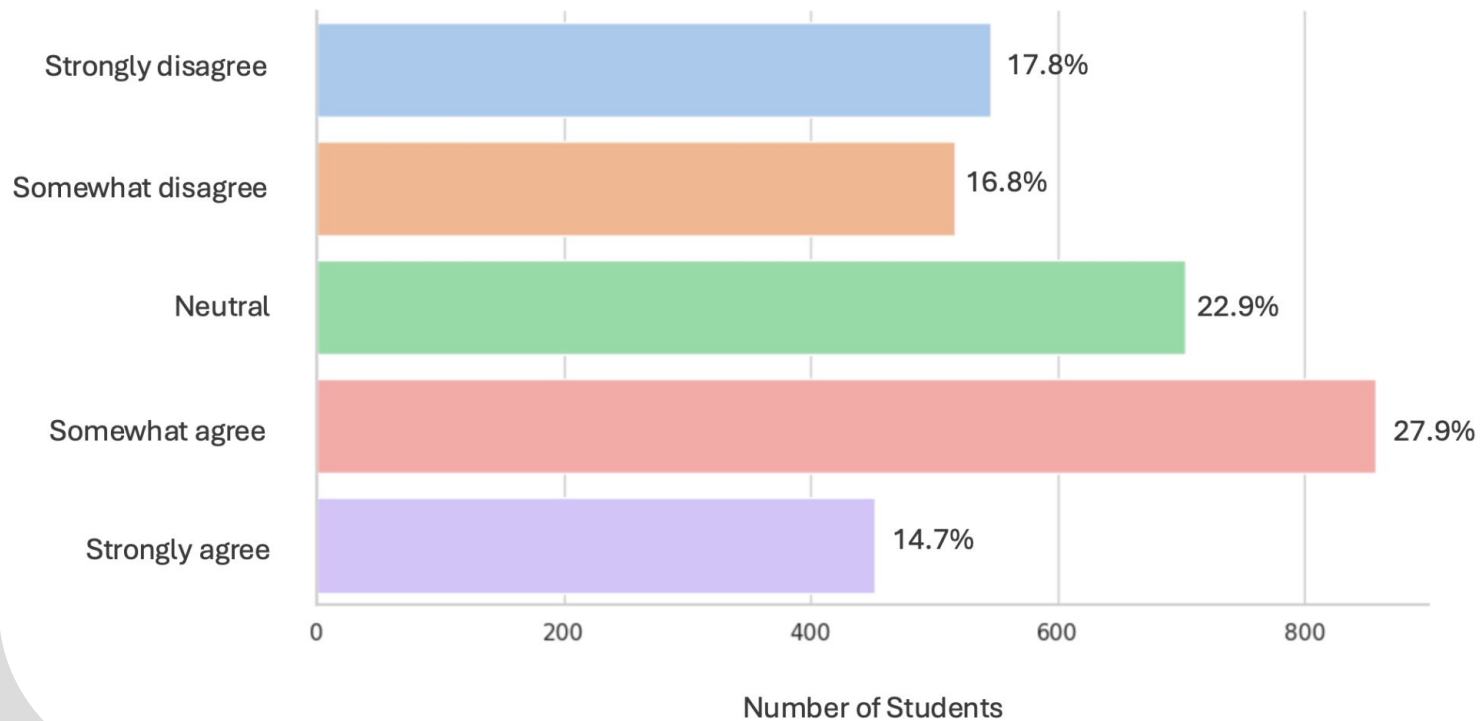
I am comfortable with AI being used in the grading of my work.



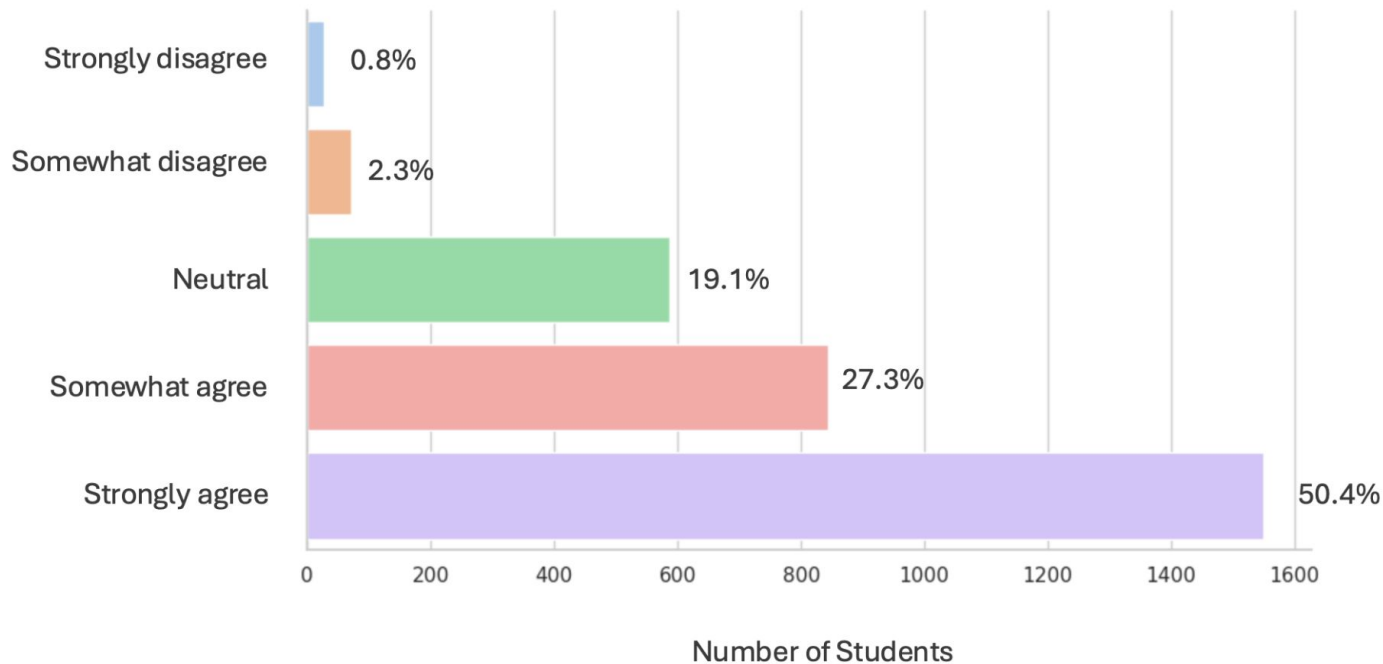
I am comfortable with AI detectors being used.



I am comfortable with my professor using AI to design course materials.



I want my professors to disclose their AI use.





# Questions?

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# Thank you!

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