Sherpath AI

Best practices for nursing education

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 and fill it in as you're taking notes in class or studying.
- **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 addresses 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 use it as reference for their work (for example, to assist with case studies).

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 aid in your studies. You 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 using 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 — ask for summarized information or lists to put on slides or in study guides.

- **Example prompt:** "Summarize the types of insulin."

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 how to teach students in a specific area — ask how to teach students related to the content of the class and a particular concept, competency, or domain.

- **Example prompt:** "How can I teach a student 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?"

Student engagement ideas for instructors

- **Ask students to have a conversation** with Sherpath AI about a topic with which they are struggling.
- **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 rationales” 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?”

Advanced prompts for *optimizing* Sherpath AI

Sherpath AI is capable of providing a wide variety of evidence-based recommendations, learning activities, and support resources. Use the following example prompts as a guide to facilitate a more effective teaching experience and enhance your students' learning.

Engage with detailed case studies

Create and analyze complex case studies.

- "Give me a case study with [medical condition]."
- "Make this case study unfold with complications."
- "Provide three nursing interventions for this patient."

Generate self-study materials

Create tailored self-study resources for independent learning to reinforce student understanding of key concepts.

- "Explain the mechanism of action of [drug name]."
- "Create a study guide for [topic/condition]" "How does [drug name] affect [medical condition]?"
- "Create a study plan with time recommendations for [topic]."
- "Generate a patient education handout on [medical condition]."
- "Create a checklist for assessing [medical condition] in [type of patient]."

Uncover useful information

Receive guidance and evidence-based recommendations for effective patient care.

- "Provide evidence-based recommendations for managing [medical condition]."
- "Translate common medical phrases from English to [x] language."
- "Offer guidance on communicating effectively with patients who have [medical condition]."
- "Provide recommendations for [medical condition] for [type of patient]."
- "Generate a script for conducting a health promotion session on [medical condition]."
- "Offer support and coping strategies for dealing with [medical condition]."

Create example documentation

Generate a variety of sample documentation related to patient cases.

- "Give me [an example] SBAR for a patient with [medical condition]."
- "Create a case summary for a patient with [medical condition]."
- "Write a patient history for an individual with [medical condition]."
- "Summarize the key findings from [an example] patient's diagnostic tests for [medical condition]."
- "Compose three progress notes for a patient undergoing treatment for [medical condition]."
- "Develop a treatment plan for [an example] patient with [medical condition]."
- "Create three examples of follow-up recommendations for a patient recovering from [medical condition]."
- "Create a template for a nursing care plan for a patient with [medical condition]."

Summarize research for projects

Create research summaries to easily synthesize information.

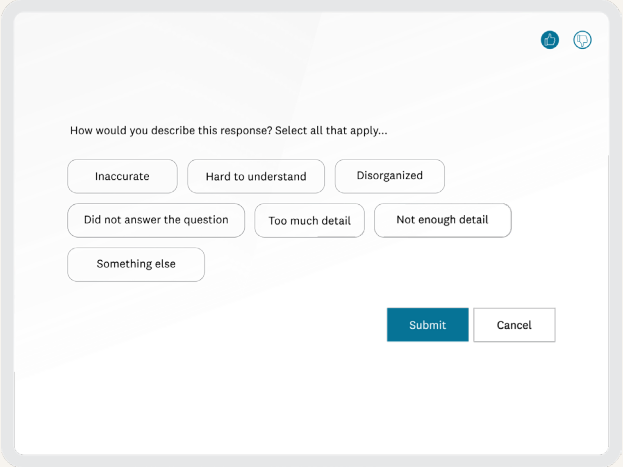
- "Propose three research topics related to [medical condition] that would be valuable for further study. Each topic should be accompanied by a brief explanation of its significance, within 100 words."
- "Suggest three innovative approaches to investigating the causes or treatments of [medical condition]. Provide a brief description of each approach, limited to 150 words."
- "Identify three gaps in the current understanding of [medical condition] that could be addressed through future research. Provide a concise explanation for each gap, within 100 words."
- "Generate a summary of the latest research on [medical condition] in healthcare settings."

Enhancing your experience with Sherpath AI

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.



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 a 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 three sentences?"
   - **For a response that uses too much medical jargon:** "Can you explain that in simpler terms?"

ELSEVIER

Copyright © 2025 Elsevier B.V.