

# **EMBRACING AI IN EDUCATION: FOUNDATION** STUDENTS' UTILIZATION OF CHATGPT FOR **ACCOUNTING RATIO ANALYSIS**

## INTRODUCTION

The rise of generative AI tools such as ChatGPT has sparked significant interest in how these technologies are reshaping education. In accounting education, especially at the foundation level, students are exploring new ways to understand and apply analytical techniques such as ratio analysis. This study explores how students are using ChatGPT in their learning journey. Understanding students' views and habits can help educators guide more effective and responsible AI use in the classroom.

## METHODOLOGY

- Design: Quantitative survey research.
- Participants: 45 Foundation-level accounting students enrolled in financial accounting course.
- Instrument: A questionnaire adapted from the Journal of Accountancy article titled "How students use – and don't use – ChatGPT" (Henderson, C. and Daigle, R.J, 2024).
- Themes Covered: i. ChatGPT as a learning supplement ii. Perceived helpfulness iii. Ethical concerns (cheating) iv. Trust in ChatGPT
- Data Collection: Online survey
- Analysis: Descriptive statistics (percentages and mean scores)

### RELATEDLITERATURE

Francis, N.J., Jones, S. and Smith, D.P. (2025) 'Generative AI in Higher Education: Balancing Innovation and Integrity', British Journal of Biomedical Science, 81, article 14048. Available at:. (Accessed: 5 May 2025).

Haugland Sundkvist, C. and Kulset, E.M. (2024) 'Teaching accounting in the era of ChatGPT – The student perspective', Journal of Accounting Education, 69, 100932. Available at: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S074857512400 0484 (Accessed: 5 May 2025).

Maruszewska, E.W., Ziemba, E.W., Grabara, D. & Renik, K., 2024. The determinants of ChatGPT usage among accounting students: the role of habit, social influence and facilitating conditions. Zeszyty Teoretyczne Rachunkowości, 48(3), pp.215–232. Wukich, J., Henderson, C. and Daigle, R.J. (2024) 'How students use — and don't use — ChatGPT', Journal of Accountancy, 29 October. Available at:

https://www.journalofaccountancy.com/news/2024/oct/how-students-use-and-dont-use-chatgpt.html (Accessed: 5 May 2025).

Ziemba, E.W., Maruszewska, E.W., Grabara, D. and Renik, K. (2024) 'Acceptance and Use of ChatGPT Among Accounting and Finance Higher Education Students', in Hernes, M. and Wątróbski, J. (eds.) Emerging Challenges in Intelligent Management Information Systems. Lecture Notes in Networks and Systems, Cham: Springer Nature, pp. 185–202. Available at: https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-66761-9\_16 (Accessed: 5 May 2025). ANALYSIS

Usage of ChatGPT or class resources in completing Ratio Analysis Group Assignment 45 responses

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## OBJECTIVE

This study aims to:

- 1. Explore how students use ChatGPT alongside their accounting learning materials.
- 2.Assess students' perceptions of ChatGPT's helpfulness in learning ratio analysis.
- 3.Investigate students' views on whether using ChatGPT is considered cheating.
- 4.Examine students' level of trust in ChatGPT's responses for academic tasks.





Only used ChatGPT Mostly used ChatGPT Used mostly class resources Equal use of ChatGPT and class resources



		Assignment type	
Statement: Scale 1 "Strongly disagree" to	All responses	Quantitative	Qualitative
Scale 6 "Strongly agree"			
heme: Use of ChatGPT as a supplement to c		1	0.00
<ol> <li>I exclusively used ChatGPT as the only resource</li> </ol>	2.86	2.82	2.89
<ol> <li>I exclusively used class resources (notes, books, lectures, homework etc.) as the only resources to help complete the questions to this assignment</li> </ol>	3.77	3.84	3.69
heme: Perceived helpfulness of ChatGPT (4.	36)		
<ol> <li>I believe that ChatGPT was helpful in improving the quality of the explanations for my answers to the questions in the assignment</li> </ol>	4.6	4.44	4.76
<ol> <li>I believe that ChatGPT was helpful in learning the material covered in the questions to the assignment</li> </ol>	4.26	4.09	4.42
<ol><li>I used ChatGPT to clarify my understanding of questions</li></ol>	4.58	4.49	4.67
<ol> <li>I used ChatGPT after I completed my questions in the assignment to check my work</li> </ol>	4.02	4.02	4.02
<ol> <li>I would use ChatGPT for assignments in other accounting subjects</li> </ol>	4.09	4.22	3.96
<ol> <li>I would use ChatGPT for assignments in other non- accounting subjects</li> </ol>	4.61	4.73	4.49
heme: Is using ChatGPT cheating? (3.38)			
<ol><li>Using ChatGPT felt like cheating</li></ol>	3.05	2.9	3.2
10. I would only use an AI tool like ChatGPT for assignment if I was instructed to use it	3.71	3.55	3.87
heme: Trust (or lack of) in ChatGPT (3.72)			
<ol><li>I trust the output ChatGPT provides</li></ol>	3.32	3.27	3.36
12. If I used ChatGPT for a future assignment, I would feel confident that ChatGPT would be useful	4.11	4.04	4.18



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## **ANALYSIS & FINDINGS**



#### Theme 1: Use of ChatGPT as a supplement to class material

Less reliance on C quantitative and q More reliance on c quantitative than f "ChatGPT might no brainstorming idea arguments."

#### Theme 2: Perceived helpfulness of ChatGPT

More helpful for q work which is equ More helpful for of subjects than oth "I think it's quite he ideas."

"It helps me understand any concepts I suddenly stumble upon that makes me unsure of the answer and also assists me in forming explanations in an orderly fashion."

exposure to different perspectives." question 3 – 6 (all above 4).

#### Theme 3: Is using ChatGPT cheating?

Min is less than 4 "In my opinion, using ChatGPT in education is not cheating if it's used responsibly. For example, to understand concepts and theories, giving suggestions or brief ideas for academic writing, and also recommends good reading materials. It supports learning, just like a tutor or textbook, as long as students do their own thinking and avoid copying answers directly."

your own work, or use it during exam."

### Theme 4: Trust (or lack of) in ChatGPT

Min is less than 4 Students reporte but reported a hig using ChatGPT fo "Not accurate and

"Can be useful in summarising topics and explaining ideas in detail but may not always be correct and I tend to double check the output and my answers before submitting any work."

"Can be useful but need to make sure if it gives the right information or data."

Findings: Overall, even though there is a lack of trust, students still intend to use it in the future but with caution.

## CONCLUSION

Students perceive ChatGPT as a supplement, not resources.

Found to be more helpful for qualitative tasks t checking work, where usefulness is equal).

Seen as more useful in non-accounting subjects con Majority disagree that using ChatGPT is a form of che Despite lack of full trust, most students plan to continue using ChatGPT with caution recognizing its potential benefits when used responsibly.



hatGPT for both	question 1: 2.82 & 2.89 respectively		
ualitative assignments			
class resources for	question 2: 3.84 vs. 3.69, respectively		
or qualitative assignments			
ot always be accurate when it comes to calculation but was very helpful in			
as and giving feedback. Chat(	GPT always gives relevant key points and		

Findings: Overall result appears that the students perceive ChatGPT to be a better supplement than a substitute for traditional class resources.

ualitative assignments than for quantitative ones except in checking the				
Jal				
other non-accounting	question 8: 4.61 vs question 7: 4.09			
er accounting subjects				
nelpful to use ChatGPT in completing the assignment <u>cause</u> it expands my				

"ChatGPT has been really helpful in completing the assignment by giving me more ideas and

Findings: Students, in general, reported that ChatGPT was somewhat helpful as shown in

"Using ChatGPT is not cheating if it used to brainstorm ideas, get feedback on work or check for grammar. However, it can be considered cheating if you copy and submit its response as

Findings: Students, in general, reported that majority of the students disagree that using ChatGPT was considered as cheating

d a lack of trust in ChatGPT	question 12: 4.11	
gher level of confidence in		
or a future assignment.		
nd logic sometimes."		

a substitute for traditional class
han quantitative ones (except for
mpared to accounting subjects.
eating.