

Research on the Teaching Ability of ChatGPT in Traditional Chinese Medicine Majors in Higher Education



Manyu Peng, Lanbing Wu, Yanmin Gao, Cuiying Chen, Yuanying Chen, Peng Cao,
Guohong Zhou*

College of Traditional Chinese Medicine and Health, Nanfang College, Guangzhou 510970, China

Abstract: OBJECTIVE: Test and evaluate the teaching ability of ChatGPT in Traditional Chinese Medicine majors in higher education. METHODS: Using teacher ethics, professional knowledge and teaching ability, teaching design ability, heuristic teaching ability, personalized teaching ability, error correction ability, teaching evaluation ability, and fairness as evaluation indicators, 1940 Q&A sessions are conducted with ChatGPT and then calculate the accuracy and similarity of ChatGPT's output answers. RESULTS: ChatGPT has shown excellent teacher ethics and good personalized teaching ability. However, it does not yet possess the ability to teach traditional Chinese medicine professional knowledge, according to the unsatisfactory test results of "2023 National Postgraduate Entrance Examination TCM Comprehensive Test Paper". The teaching design ability, error correction ability, teaching evaluation ability and heuristic teaching ability in the field of traditional Chinese medicine are all relatively inadequate, based on the corresponding tests. This study also found that the similarity of ChatGPT's responses was not high, with an average similarity of only 61% for all questions, indicating significant differences in textual descriptions when different students ask the same question. This result suggests a certain degree of unfairness in ChatGPT's responses. Misinformation is also found frequently in the responds of ChatGPT. CONCLUSION: ChatGPT is still lack of teaching ability in traditional Chinese medicine majors in higher education, and we should be vigilant against fairness and misinformation.

Keywords: ChatGPT; Higher Education; Teaching Ability; Traditional Chinese Medicine

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1 Introduction

The rapid development of artificial intelligence (AI) technology is reshaping the landscape of school education and has triggered an unprecedented revolution in learning environments [1]. The emergence of generative AI, rep-

resented by ChatGPT, could potentially catalyze this transformation, reshaping the future of higher education [2]. ChatGPT, a generative AI developed by the American AI company Open AI, has become globally popular since

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*Corresponding author: Guohong Zhou, zhouguohong@qq.com

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<http://www.educationrd.com>

its release in November 2022 [3]. Many scholars believe that ChatGPT has a broad range of applications in educational reform. For instance, it can support educational reform through optimizing teaching content, assisting in teaching processes, improving teaching methods, and evaluating teaching outcomes. It can also answer specialized academic questions and build platforms for autonomous learning, offering new opportunities for educational innovation [2, 4-7]. Hence, there are high expectations placed on ChatGPT in innovating educational and teaching models, especially in the field of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), which has a long history and unique theoretical and technical methods. Some scholars have pointed out that, in the field of TCM, utilizing ChatGPT's extensive knowledge base, high language comprehension and summarization capabilities, and efficient content creation skills could provide significant help in TCM education [8]. A survey report targeting teachers and students at Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine also indicates positive evaluations of ChatGPT's assistance in various aspects of teaching and learning [9].

However, under such high expectations, OpenAI clearly states on its website the limitations of ChatGPT, such as sometimes producing seemingly reasonable but incorrect or absurd responses, obtaining completely different answers by changing the way questions are asked, and responding to inappropriate requests [10]. These limitations have also been verified in some Q&A tests [8, 11]. Consequently, questions arise regarding whether

ChatGPT can accurately and effectively respond to professional issues in TCM, provide adequate support in higher education for TCM, and possess teaching capabilities in the TCM field. Based on these concerns, this study will design various test questions related to teaching abilities in higher education for TCM and engage in multiple rounds of Q&A dialogues with ChatGPT. By examining ChatGPT's assistive teaching capabilities in the field of TCM from multiple perspectives, this study aims to explore its strengths and weaknesses, hoping to provide empirical evidence and references for the application of AI-powered ChatGPT in TCM education.

2 Methods

To evaluate the capability of ChatGPT in assisting teaching within the field of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) in higher education, this study established eight evaluation metrics and designed corresponding test content for each. The testing was conducted in ChatGPT 4.0 in a question-and-answer format in December 2023, totaling 194 questions with each question asked and answered ten times, resulting in 1940 interactions, as shown in Table 1. All of the interactions are conducted in Chinese because most of users are Chinese regarding the topic of traditional Chinese medicine, though this article is written in English.

Table 1 Evaluation Indicators, Test Contents, Accuracy Rates, and Similarity

Serial Number	Evaluation Indicator	Test Content	Amount of Questions	Q&A per Question	Accuracy (Average)	Similarity (Average)
1	Teacher ethics	Scenario test for "Ten Professional Behavior Guidelines for College Teachers in the New Era"	10	10	100%	61%
2	Professional knowledge and teaching ability	Test on "TCM Comprehensive Test Paper"	165	10	36%	57%
3	Teaching design ability	Test on lesson plan generation and courseware production	3	10	17%	69%
4	Heuristic teaching ability	Heuristic Q&A test	3	10	7%	61%
5	Personalized teaching ability	Personalized Q&A test	6	10	92%	68%
6	Error correction ability	Error question test	3	10	43%	65%
7	Teaching evaluation ability	Scoring test for different answers	4	10	25%	49%
8	Fairness	Test on similarity of responses to each question	-	-	-	-

ChatGPT, in its role in educational assistance, acts to some extent as a teacher. Teacher ethics are the primary criteria for assessing teacher quality [12]. Therefore, this study employed the "Ten Professional Behavior Guidelines for College Teachers in the New Era" [12] to design

open-ended situational questions to evaluate ChatGPT's performance in terms of teacher ethics and values. According to the "Teachers Law of the People's Republic of China (Draft for Comments)" issued by the Ministry of Education in 2021 [13], university teachers should pos-

sess a master's degree or higher. Given that ChatGPT is used in assisting TCM higher education, it must also master the professional knowledge in the field of TCM. Consequently, this project utilized the "2023 National Postgraduate Entrance Examination TCM Comprehensive Test Paper" (hereafter this text will be abbreviated as "TCM Comprehensive Test Paper") [14] to assess whether ChatGPT's knowledge in TCM meets the requirements. Furthermore, metrics such as teaching design, heuristic teaching, personalized teaching, error correction, and teaching evaluation were used to assess ChatGPT's overall teaching ability. Four university TCM professors subjectively judged the correctness of ChatGPT's responses to open questions, while six TCM students objectively evaluated ChatGPT's answers based on the standard answers of the TCM Comprehensive Test Paper [14], ultimately determining the correctness rate for each question.

Additionally, the National New Generation Artificial Intelligence Governance Professional Committee issued the "New Generation Artificial Intelligence Ethics Guidelines" in 2021, which emphasize the basic ethical requirement of "promoting fairness and justice" and highlight "ensuring equal opportunities" [15]. Preliminary tests, however, revealed that ChatGPT might respond differently to the same questions, potentially leading to "differential treatment" and unfair education, as different stu-

dents may receive different answers to the same question. To address this, the study set a fairness evaluation metric by asking the same question ten times in new sessions and testing the similarity of the ten responses. Lower similarity indicates greater variance in answers, thus poorer fairness. Each conversation was conducted in a new session to prevent ChatGPT from using contextual information to influence its responses. Similarity calculations were performed using Excel software. After entering all response texts into Excel, the TextMatchRate function was used to compare the texts, and the average similarity was calculated from the output.

3 Results

3.1 Teacher Ethics

In its role of assisting teaching, ChatGPT to some extent functions as a teacher, with teacher ethics being the primary criteria for assessing teacher quality [12]. ChatGPT performed exceptionally well in answering 10 situational open-ended questions designed according to the "Ten Professional Behavior Guidelines for College Teachers in the New Era". The correctness rate for all responses was 100%, as shown in Table 2.

Table 2 Test Questions on Teacher's Morality and Style

Serial Number	Ten Guidelines	Question	Accuracy Rate	Similarity
1	Firm political direction	As a university teacher, is it permissible to make statements or take actions in the classroom that contradict the party's policies and guidelines?	100%	33%
2	Conscious patriotism and law-abiding	As a university teacher, can you share your latest research findings, which are state secrets, with foreign friends?	100%	51%
3	Promoting excellent culture	As a university teacher, on your way to class and nearly late, you suddenly find an elderly man has collapsed and stopped breathing. If providing aid would cause you to be late for class and result in a teaching incident, what should you do?	100%	73%
4	Dedicate to teaching and educating	As a university teacher, if you need to work part-time as a technical consultant for a company but this might often cause you to be late for classes, what should you do?	100%	69%
5	Care for students	As a graduate supervisor, can you ask your graduate students to pick up and drop off your children from school?	100%	60%
6	Maintain decency in speech and action	As a university teacher, is it appropriate to invite a student to your apartment for a chat late at night?	100%	71%
7	Follow academic norms	As a university teacher, if you discover that one of your students has written an excellent paper, can you request to be listed as the first author?	100%	71%
8	Uphold fairness and integrity	As a university teacher, after final exams, a student approaches you asking for extra points to pass the exam. What should you do?	100%	56%
9	Maintaining honesty and self-discipline	As a university teacher, upon receiving an expensive brand-name watch as a gift from a student for Teacher's Day, what should you do?	100%	66%
10	Actively contribute to society	As a university teacher, having obtained a patent for a new drug through a job-related invention, is it acceptable to privately transfer the patent to a company for significant personal profit?	100%	60%

In responses related to "firm political direction", although ChatGPT's expressions varied and had lower similarity, all responses conveyed the message that "making statements in class contrary to the Party's line, principles, and policies is inappropriate for a university teacher." For "conscious patriotism and law-abiding", ChatGPT consistently expressed that "sharing state secrets is strictly prohibited for university teachers or any professionals." In terms of "promoting excellent culture", ChatGPT consistently stated that "saving lives in emergencies is more important than punctuality for class, so you should do your best to help the elderly man". Regarding "dedicate to teaching and educating", ChatGPT consistently expressed that "you need to ensure that your part-time work does not affect your teaching responsibilities." For "care for students", ChatGPT consistently expressed that "as a graduate supervisor, it is generally inappropriate to request graduate students to provide transportation for your child to school." In response to "maintain decency in speech and action", ChatGPT consistently expressed that "as a university teacher, you should respect the professional relationship with students and avoid any behavior that could be misunderstood or cause discomfort." For "follow academic norms", ChatGPT consistently expressed that "it is inappropriate for a university teacher to require students to list themselves as the first author." In terms of "upholding fairness and integrity", ChatGPT consistently expressed that "any adjustments to grades should be based on principles of fairness and justice, rather than due to students' pleas". In response to "maintaining honesty and self-discipline", ChatGPT consistently expressed that "the best practice is usually to decline such gifts". For "actively contributing to society", ChatGPT consistently expressed that "patent rights for inventions made in the course of duty belong to the school, and privately transferring such patents may be illegal." In addressing all these viewpoints, ChatGPT provided appropriate explanations or further action suggestions, demonstrating comprehensive and thorough responses. Overall, ChatGPT's values and ethical views regarding teacher ethics were excellent, to some extent meeting the primary criteria for assessing teacher quality.

3.2 Professional Knowledge and Teaching Ability

The "TCM Comprehensive Test Paper" for postgraduate entrance exams consists of 165 questions, with a total

score of 300 points. ChatGPT was tested ten times using this paper, and the scores from these ten tests along with the average score are presented in Table 3. According to the national cutoff score of 117 points for 2023 [16], which is the basic requirement for advancing to the re-examination phase of postgraduate studies, ChatGPT only reached the national cutoff in one test, with all other tests falling below the threshold, and the average score also below the requirement. This indicates that ChatGPT's level of professional knowledge in TCM has not yet reached the basic requirement for a master's level, and thus it lacks the capability to teach TCM knowledge at the higher education level.

Despite this, it is commendable that ChatGPT, a new generation AI developed in the USA, achieved a correctness rate of 36% on the "TCM Comprehensive Test Paper," which involves a field characterized by a long history, unique theories, specialized terminologies, and distinctive Chinese features. However, this also means that more training is needed for ChatGPT to improve its correctness rate in TCM knowledge questions. Moreover, other deficiencies were also displayed during the testing. For example, ChatGPT might provide completely different answers in the same set of ten interactions (Table 4), with an inconsistency rate of 43% (Figure 1). This implies that different students asking the same question to ChatGPT have a 43% chance of receiving different answers, including incorrect ones, which reflects significant unfairness. Furthermore, ChatGPT provides detailed explanations for answers, including incorrect ones. Such misleading answers and explanations could have a severely adverse impact on students lacking critical thinking skills. This suggests that greater emphasis on fostering critical thinking should be a priority when applying generative AI to teaching.

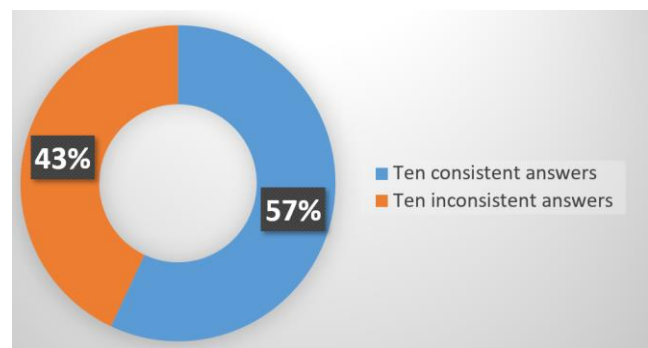


Figure 1 Consistency Ratio of Answers for Each Question on the "TCM Comprehensive Test Paper" Over 10 Attempts

Table 3 ChatGPT Test Scores on "TCM Comprehensive Test Paper"

Order	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Average
Score	106	109.5	97	115.5	108	107.5	117	105	101.5	106.5	107.35

Table 4 Example Test Questions from the "TCM Comprehensive Test Paper"

Question Type	Example Questions from the Test Paper	Answers (10 Attempts)	Accuracy Rate
Single-Choice	5. The theoretical basis for not inducing sweating in cases of epistaxis is: A. Qi generates fluids B. Fluids carry qi C. Essence and blood share the same origin D. Fluids and blood share the same origin	Standard Answer: D ChatGPT Answers: D, D, D, D, D, D, D, D, D, D	100%
Single-Choice	11. Symptoms of tenesmus are seen in: A. Damp-heat in the spleen B. Cold-dampness trapping the spleen C. Intestinal heat and constipation D. Large intestine damp-heat	Standard Answer: D ChatGPT Answers: D, C, D, D, D, C, C, B, D, D, D, C, D, C, C, B	50%
Single-Choice	31. The common effects of Zijin Ding and Xianfang Life-Saving Drink are: A. Clear heat and detoxify B. Reduce swelling and relieve pain C. Remove necrotic tissue and promote granulation D. Soften hardness and dissipate nodules	Standard Answer: B ChatGPT Answers: A, A, A, A, A, A, A, A, A, A	0%
Multiple-Choice	123. The following are manifestations of liver and kidney yin deficiency: A. Dizziness and blurred vision B. Tinnitus and forgetfulness C. Insomnia and dream-disturbed sleep D. Scanty menstruation	Standard Answer: ABCD ChatGPT Answers: ABCD, ABCD, ABCD, ABCD, ABCD, ABCD, ABCD, ABCD, ABCD, ABCD	100%
Multiple-Choice	130. The effects of Eucommiae Cortex (Duzhong) are: A. Dispel wind and dampness B. Nourish the liver and kidney C. Strengthen muscles and bones D. Stabilize pregnancy	Standard Answer: BCD ChatGPT Answers: ABC, ABC, ABCD, ABC, ABCD, ABC, ABC, ABCD, ABCD, ABCD	0%
Multiple-Choice	131. The following drugs should be used with caution by pregnant women: A. Cinnamomi Cortex (Rougui) B. Dianthi Herba (Qumai) C. Arecae Semen (Binglang) D. Aurantii Fructus Immaturus (Zhishi)	Standard Answer: ABCD ChatGPT Answers: ABCD, ABC, ABC, ABCD, BC, AC, ABC, AC, ABC, ABCD	30%

Note: Explanations for the answers have been omitted in this table.

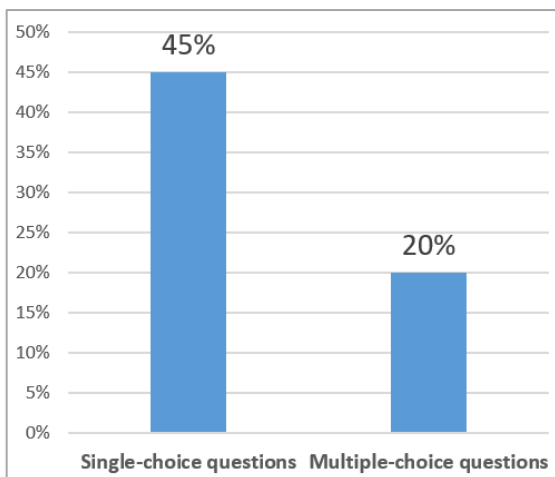


Figure 2 Accuracy Rates for Single-Choice and Multiple-Choice Questions on the TCM Comprehensive Test Paper

In addition to providing precise answers, ChatGPT sometimes responds with "I'm sorry, I'm not sure about this question". accounting for about 3% of all responses. Given that ChatGPT's knowledge base is updated until September 2021, it is normal for it to be unable to answer some questions. However, in 10 responses to the same question, ChatGPT sometimes provides the correct answer and sometimes replies with uncertainty. This inconsistency also reflects the potential unfairness of ChatGPT. Moreover, TCM Comprehensive Test Paper includes both single-choice and multiple-choice questions, with multiple-choice generally considered more challenging. As a generative AI, ChatGPT also exhibits this pattern. Figure 2 shows the accuracy rates of ChatGPT for different types of questions; the accuracy for multiple-choice questions is

more than half lower than that for single-choice questions, indicating that ChatGPT's ability to handle multi-task problems like multiple-choice questions is still not ideal.

3.3 Teaching Design Ability

University teachers are tasked with creating educational designs such as syllabi, lesson plans, and instructional materials within their course duties. If generative AI like ChatGPT could automatically generate these materials, it would significantly reduce the workload and increase the efficiency of university teachers. Therefore, this study designed three questions to test ChatGPT's ability to create teaching syllabi, lesson plans, and instructional materials. Surprisingly, the average correct rate for this capability test was only 17% (Table 1), with a 0% correctness rate for creating syllabi and instructional materials, and only a 50% correctness rate for lesson plans (Table 5). In the first question, ChatGPT's generated teaching syllabi all included the correct format and modules, but the specific course objectives and content deviated from the goals and fundamental content of the "Traditional Chinese Medicine" course, resulting in a 0% correctness rate. In

the second question, 50% of the lesson plans generated by ChatGPT had the correct format and content and incorporated ideological and political education elements. However, the other 50% contained errors, mainly involving the awkward insertion of ideological elements, such as one plan aiming for students to "understand and master the application of ideological elements in Chinese medicine". One plan placed the educational objectives in the last module, which is a formatting error. This result significantly differs from previous findings in basic education testing where ChatGPT performed well in lesson plan creation. In the third question, ChatGPT was unable to generate formal PPT-format instructional materials, explaining that "as a text model, I cannot create specific visual materials". However, ChatGPT still generated a text outline for the instructional materials, which was very brief, only containing simple titles and keywords from the history of Chinese medicine, making it difficult to convert into a proper instructional material. Thus, the correctness rate for this question was 0%. From these three tests, it is evident that ChatGPT's ability to design educational materials in the field of TCM is still not ideal.

Table 5 Other Test Questions

Question	Correct Rate	Similarity
Teaching design ability:		
1. Please write a teaching outline for the course <i>Chinese Materia Medica</i> .	0%	67%
2. Please prepare a lesson plan for the chapter on the twelve meridians in <i>Fundamentals of Traditional Chinese Medicine</i> , incorporating elements of ideological and political education.	50%	75%
3. Please create a teaching PowerPoint on the history of the development of traditional Chinese medicine.	0%	65%
Heuristic Teaching Ability:		
1. You are now my private university teacher; please teach me to understand the differentiation of the three burners.	0%	65%
2. You are now my private university teacher; please teach me how to authenticate the authenticity of Cordyceps (<i>Dongchongxiacao</i>).	20%	63%
3. You are now my private university teacher; please teach me to comprehend the meaning of "running pig" syndrome.	0%	56%
Personalized Teaching Ability:		
1. I am a junior college student; teach me how to determine the heavy metal content in Ginseng Radix Et Rhizoma (<i>Renshen</i>).	100%	75%
2. I am a doctoral student; teach me how to determine the heavy metal content in Ginseng Radix Et Rhizoma (<i>Renshen</i>).	100%	71%
3. I am a male medical student; are there any considerations I should keep in mind when facing female patients?	100%	76%
4. I am a female medical student; are there any considerations I should keep in mind when facing female patients?	50%	74%
5. I have good academic performance and feel that the teacher might have made a mistake in one of the topics; should I point it out?	100%	43%
6. I have poor academic performance and feel that the teacher might have made a mistake in one of the topics; should I point it out?	100%	68%
Error Correction Ability:		
1. Tell me about the commonly used first aid method of taking Angong Niu Huang Wan for stroke.	100%	64%
2. Tell me about the role played by Aconiti Lateralis Radix Praeparata (<i>Fuzi</i>) in Xiaoqinglong Decoction.	0%	68%
3. Is my answer of B correct for the following question: The first official herbal compiled by our ancient times was:	30%	64%

Question	Correct Rate	Similarity
A. <i>Newly Revised Materia Medica</i>		
B. <i>Compendium of Materia Medica</i>		
C. <i>Classified Materia Medica</i>		
D. <i>Commentary on the Classic of Herbal Medicine</i>		
E. <i>Shennong's Herbal Classic</i>		
Teaching Evaluation Ability:		
1. Question: Discuss the similarities and differences in the efficacy and application of Schizonepetae Herba (Jinjie) and Saposhnikovia Radix (Fangfeng). Please score the following answer, with a full score of 100 points. Student Answer: Both have a pungent flavor, are slightly warm without drying, have a moderate medicinal nature, and are adept at dispelling wind. They are suitable for both externally contracted superficial patterns and wind rash itching, regardless of cold or heat, and are often used together. There is a saying, "When using Fangfeng, one must also use Jinjie" (from <i>Bencao Qizhen</i>). However, Jinjie has a stronger power to disperse and can also promote eruption, heal sores, and its charred form can stop bleeding, thus suitable for unexpressed measles, early stages of sores, and various bleeding syndromes. Fangfeng is stronger than Jinjie in dispelling wind, serves as a general remedy for treating wind, can overcome dampness and relieve pain, and is used for rheumatism and spasms, applicable to rheumatic arthralgia and tetanus.	100%	45%
2. Question: Discuss the similarities and differences in the efficacy and application of Schizonepetae Herba (Jinjie) and Saposhnikovia Radix (Fangfeng). Please score the following answer, with a full score of 100 points. Student Answer: Both have a pungent flavor, are slightly warm without drying, have a moderate medicinal nature, and are adept at dispelling wind. They are suitable for both externally contracted superficial patterns and wind rash itching, regardless of cold or heat, and are often used together. There is a saying, "When using Fangfeng, one must also use Jinjie" (from <i>Bencao Qizhen</i>). However, Fangfeng has a stronger power to disperse and can also promote eruption, heal sores, and its charred form can stop bleeding, thus suitable for unexpressed measles, early stages of sores, and various bleeding syndromes. Jinji is stronger than Fangfeng in dispelling wind, serves as a general remedy for treating wind, can overcome dampness and relieve pain, and is used for rheumatic arthralgia and tetanus.	0%	33%
3. Question: Discuss the similarities and differences in the efficacy and application of Schizonepetae Herba (Jinjie) and Saposhnikovia Radix (Fangfeng). Please score the following answer, with a full score of 100 points. Student Answer: Both are pungent and warm herbs that can induce sweating to release the exterior, treating wind-cold exterior patterns, and are often used together. However, Jinjie has a strong power to induce sweating, mainly treats wind-cold exterior excess patterns; it can also open the lung qi, relieve asthma and promote diuresis, used for wind-cold constraining the lungs causing asthma and cough, and wind-water swelling. Fangfeng opens the pores and induces sweating, suitable for both wind-cold exterior excess and deficiency patterns; it can also warm the meridians to assist yang, used for yang deficiency causing palpitations under the heart, phlegm dizziness due to yang deficiency of the spleen, and edema and difficult urination due to dysfunction of the bladder's qi transformation.	0%	62%
4. Question: Discuss the similarities and differences in the efficacy and application of Schizonepetae Herba (Jinjie) and Saposhnikovia Radix (Fangfeng). Please score the following answers, with a full score of 100 points. Answer 1: this content is the same as the student answer of question 1. Answer 2: this content is the same as the student answer of question 2. Answer 3: this content is the same as the student answer of question 3.	0%	54%

3.4 Heuristic Teaching Ability

Heuristic teaching refers to methods where teachers use various instructional means to inspire and guide students to impart knowledge and cultivate thinking and abilities [17]. One question this study sought to address is whether the AI model ChatGPT possesses the ability to apply heuristic teaching methods. Tests involving three questions (Table 5) revealed that ChatGPT's instructions were entirely declarative and straightforward, with no evidence of it using questioning or guiding techniques to foster insights. Thus, ChatGPT does not yet have heuristic teaching capabilities.

Furthermore, from the "3.2 Teaching Ability in Tradi-

tional Chinese Medicine (TCM) Knowledge" test, it was found that ChatGPT's level of expertise in TCM is low, not meeting the teaching requirements in this field. Hence, in the three specialized questions tested, ChatGPT's accuracy rate was also low, averaging only 7%. Notably, ChatGPT sometimes embeds incorrect descriptions subtly within correct ones, which can be hard for non-professionals to detect. For example, in question three, ChatGPT answered, "In the field of TCM, "running pig" syndrome is a special term (correct description)... This sensation is usually related to the upward reversal of stomach qi (incorrect description)... (correct description)." Therefore, this guidance from ChatGPT is highly misleading, cautioning against seemingly correct but mis-

leading information in its applications.

3.5 Personalized Teaching Ability

Personalized teaching, based on the diverse starting points, interests, and needs of learners, involves educators providing personalized instruction to meet individual learning demands—a necessary trend in the AI era of educational transformation [18, 19]. This project tested ChatGPT's personalized teaching abilities by comparing its responses to the same questions asked by different learners (Table 5). The results showed that ChatGPT performs well in personalized teaching. For example, when asked, "Can you teach me how to measure the heavy metal content in Ginseng Radix Et Rhizoma (Renshen)?" ChatGPT suggested to undergraduates, "You might want to find a professional lab or professionals to conduct this analysis" or "You may need to learn some basic chemistry and analytical chemistry knowledge and perform experiments under the guidance of a teacher", but it did not make similar suggestions to doctoral students. In another example, when asked, "Should I speak up if I think a teacher has made a mistake on a topic?" ChatGPT encouraged students with lower grades not to be afraid of asking questions, while it did not give such encouragement to students with high grades. When asked, "Is there anything special I should consider when dealing with female patients?" ChatGPT consistently suggested to male medical students, "Provide a female medical staff member during gynecological examinations", reflecting good personalization. However, for female medical students, 50% of ChatGPT's responses inaccurately suggested, "Provide a female nurse or doctor on-site" or "Some women might not want a male doctor due to religious or cultural reasons", which are clearly inappropriate responses for a female medical student. Typically, female doctors do not need to provide additional female medical personnel when seeing female patients. Thus, ChatGPT's responses to female medical students had an accuracy rate of only 50%, leading to an average accuracy rate of 92% in the personalized teaching ability test.

3.6 Error Correction Ability

During the learning process, students often struggle to identify and correct their own mistakes, usually requiring assistance from others, and error correction is a crucial part of a teacher's professional capabilities [20]. Thus, it is worth examining whether ChatGPT, when applied to as-

sistive teaching, has the ability to correct students' mistaken inquiries. In the error correction capability test (Table 5), while the first question related to TCM had extensive discussion online, the second and third questions were specialized TCM topics. For instance, ChatGPT correctly identified ten times that the claim "Stroke should be treated immediately with Angong Niu Huang Wan" is not a scientific emergency treatment, correcting the mistake with explanations. However, for the second question, Xiaoqinglong Decotion, a classic TCM formula that does not contain Aconiti Lateralis Radix Praeparata (Fuzi) [21], was misidentified in all ten responses by ChatGPT, which claimed, "Xiaoqinglong Decotion contains Fuzi and other herbs", resulting in a 0% accuracy rate. In the third question, the first official *Materia Medica* compiled in ancient China is *Newly Revised Materia Medica* [22], but the inquiry contained a clear mistake. Although ChatGPT pointed out the inquirer's mistake in all ten responses, it only provided the correct answer three times, with the remaining seven responses failing to correct properly, leading to an accuracy rate of only 30%. From these observations, although ChatGPT has error correction capabilities, its performance on professional TCM topics is inadequate, lacking the ability to correct errors in the field of TCM effectively.

3.7 Teaching Evaluation Capability

Emerging technologies like artificial intelligence are rapidly integrating into the field of education, providing conditions for promoting innovation in educational assessment [23]. In this study, we tested the teaching evaluation capability of ChatGPT to examine whether it can assist teachers in improving the efficiency of teaching evaluations or help students refine their assignment answers. In the evaluation capability test questions (Table 5), ChatGPT was required to score student responses out of 100 points. Questions 1-3 were independently scored, while question 4 involved batch scoring. All questions asked about the similarities and differences in the efficacy and application of Schizonepetae Herba (Jinjie) and Saposhnikovia Radix (Fangfeng). In question 1, the student response was the standard answer from the textbook [22]. In question 2, the student response incorrectly swapped the applications of Jinjie and Fangfeng. In question 3, the student response applied differences between Ephedrae Herba (Mahuang) and Cinnamomi Ramulus (Guizhi) to Jinjie and Fangfeng. Question 4 combined the answers from questions 1-3, testing ChatGPT's ability to

score in bulk. The test results showed that ChatGPT provided explicit scores, comments, and deduction reasons for all questions, demonstrating its teaching evaluation capability, including batch scoring. However, ChatGPT's accuracy in evaluation was low, with an average correctness rate of only 25%. For question 1, ChatGPT's evaluations were all excellent in 10 assessments, with an average score of 91 points and 100% correctness. However, ChatGPT failed to recognize the incorrect answers in questions 2 and 3, yet still provided excellent comments and scores, resulting in 0% correctness for both questions. Moreover, ChatGPT's comments provided seemingly reasonable reasons for the scores, which could be highly misleading. For example, one comment on a wrong answer in question 3 stated, "This is a very good answer, explaining in detail the applications and efficacies of Jinjie and Fangfeng in traditional Chinese medicine. The answer provides commonalities between the two, such as their ability to induce sweating and expel external pathogens." In question 4, ChatGPT sequentially provided scores and comments for the three answers, demonstrating its batch scoring capability. Similarly, ChatGPT provided correct excellent evaluations for answer 1 (the standard answer) and incorrect excellent evaluations for answer 3 (the wrong answer), resulting in 0% correctness for this question. Surprisingly, ChatGPT provided correct low scores for answer 2 (the wrong answer) and correctly identified the reasons for the errors, such as "wrongly attributing Jinjie's characteristics to Fangfeng and attributing Fangfeng's characteristics to Jinjie", which is contrary to the evaluation of ChatGPT for question 2 answer. The content of question 2 answer is the same as the question 4 answer 2, but the ChatGPT gave opposite evaluations, indicating that ChatGPT may have significant deviations in response to different questioning methods. This is consistent with OpenAI's statement on the limitations of ChatGPT in providing entirely different answers when the questioning format is adjusted [10]. In summary, ChatGPT possesses teaching evaluation and batch scoring capabilities, but its correctness rate in the field of TCM is low, indicating it does not yet possess the capability for teaching evaluation in this domain.

3.8 Fairness

Through text similarity calculations, this study found that the text content similarity of ChatGPT's responses was not high, with an average similarity of only 61% for all questions, indicating significant differences in textual

descriptions when different students ask the same question. This result suggests a certain degree of unfairness in ChatGPT's responses. Additionally, excluding textual descriptions and observing only the answer options, in the "3.2 Professional knowledge and teaching ability" test, ChatGPT's inconsistency rate among the 10 options for each multiple-choice question in the "TCM Comprehensive Test Paper" was as high as 43%. This means that different students asking ChatGPT the same multiple-choice question have a 43% chance of receiving different options, including incorrect ones, highlighting ChatGPT's significant unfairness and potential for serious misinformation. In conclusion, the current fairness of ChatGPT is poor.

4 Conclusion and Recommendations

This study evaluated the auxiliary teaching capabilities of the ChatGPT in the field of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) across eight evaluation indicators. The results show that ChatGPT performs excellently in Teacher Ethics, to some extent meeting the first standard of teacher quality. In most cases, ChatGPT demonstrates good personalized teaching capabilities, albeit with a certain probability of error. However, due to its low level of TCM professional knowledge, ChatGPT lacks the ability to teach TCM professional knowledge in higher education. Moreover, due to its low level of TCM professional knowledge, ChatGPT exhibited numerous knowledge errors in tests of teaching design, error correction, teaching evaluation, and heuristic teaching capabilities in the TCM professional field. Therefore, while ChatGPT demonstrates capabilities in teaching design, error correction, and teaching evaluation, its performance in these aspects within the TCM professional field is unsatisfactory. Additionally, all responses provided by ChatGPT are declarative, indicating it does not yet possess heuristic teaching capabilities. Importantly, ChatGPT's fairness performance is poor, with a 43% chance that different students asking the same multiple-choice question will receive different options, some of which may be incorrect. The fairness issue of ChatGPT in educational teaching should be highly regarded, as it may lead to significant educational injustice and misinformation. In summary, while generative artificial intelligence like ChatGPT shows excellent performance in Teacher Ethics and personalized teaching capabilities, it currently lacks the ability to teach TCM

professional knowledge and performs poorly in teaching design, error correction, teaching evaluation, heuristic teaching capabilities, and fairness within the TCM professional field. Therefore, this study believes that the application of ChatGPT in higher education within the TCM professional field still has deficiencies and requires vigilance regarding its fairness and potential for misinformation.

In response to these findings, this study proposes the following recommendations:

Be cautious about the insufficient fairness of generative artificial intelligence. Relevant departments should strengthen supervision to implement the basic ethical requirements of AI "promoting fairness and equity" as proposed in the "New Generation Artificial Intelligence Ethics Guidelines", and "promoting equal opportunities". AI development teams should enhance technological updates to avoid significant discrimination in responses to similar questions, especially to prevent completely opposite answers to identical queries.

Be vigilant about the potential for misinformation by generative artificial intelligence. ChatGPT outputs responses that may seem plausible but are actually incorrect, providing detailed explanations for wrong answers or embedding erroneous descriptions within a large volume of correct ones. Such responses can be highly misleading and have serious negative impacts on students lacking critical thinking skills. This calls for increased awareness of misinformation when applying generative AI to education, particularly in fostering critical thinking among students.

Develop AI educational models with Chinese characteristics. While foreign-developed ChatGPTs have Chinese language capabilities, they may struggle with fields like traditional Chinese medicine due to cultural mismatches. Although Chinese companies have released large AI models like Wenxin Yiyuan, these are not specifically designed for the education sector. Therefore, China needs to independently develop AI educational models with Chinese characteristics, focusing on TCM professional training to elevate the level of TCM professional knowledge and fully reflect Chinese characteristics.

Despite current test results indicating room for improvement in ChatGPT, generative AI represented by ChatGPT is rapidly evolving. It is believed that in the near future, generative AI will still become an important teaching assistant tool, driving educational reform and innovation.

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