

Macro Buddy — A Socratic AI Tutor Combined with Peer Study Groups Lifts Exam Scores in Undergraduate Macroeconomics

AI in Education · Good practice · United States of America

Quality score: 47/100

Evidence strength: Randomised controlled trial

Summary

A randomized trial across four sections (140 students) at Wisconsin-La Crosse found students pairing peer study groups with Macro Buddy, a custom Socratic AI tutor, scored highest by the third exam, ahead of solo AI users, group-only students, and a no-AI control.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of learning impact	2/3
Equity & inclusion	0/3
Transparency, ethics & data protection	2/3
Teacher capability & pedagogy	1/3
Scalability & sustainability	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-09-06

[University of Wisconsin-La Crosse \(with Appalachian State University\)](#) — accessed 2026-09-06

[The Conversation - author summary](#) — accessed 2026-09-06

[Phys.org coverage](#) — accessed 2026-09-06

[Journal of Economic Education - article page](#) — accessed 2026-09-06

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