



AI in Education: Pathways, Adoption, and Adaptation

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June 10, 2026

The challenge

AI is changing how we work and learn.

Higher bar for graduates: employers expect mastery of fundamentals *and* facility with AI tools.

How to provide students – and faculty – with the knowledge, tools, and confidence to thrive in the face of these changes?



AI strategy developed by two committees – Engineering and Campus-Wide (Nov '25 to Jan '26)

GCOE AI Curriculum Committee

Abdu Alawini	Teaching Assoc. Prof., SSCDS
Mani Golparvar	Prof., CEE
Derek Hoiem	Prof., SSCDS (Chair)
Tomasz Kozlowski	Prof., NPRE
Olga Mironenko	Teaching Asst. Prof., ECE
Melkior Ornik	Asst. Prof., AERO
Alex Schwing	Assoc. Prof., ECE
Eric Shaffer	Teaching Assoc. Prof., SSCDS
Rich Sowers	Prof., ISE
Brad Butler	Interim Dir., EngrIT (ex officio)
Philippe Geubelle	Exec. Assoc. Dean, GCOE (ex officio)

Campus AI Task Force

Derek Hoiem	Prof., Grainger College of Eng., Co-Chair
Shaowen Wang	Assoc. Dean for Life & Phys. Sci., College of LAS, Co-Chair
Brandon Batzloff	Interim Assoc. Dean for Acad. Affairs, School of Info. Sci.
Amanda Brantner	Sr. Dir. of Content & Educ. Portfolio Strat., Gies College of Business
Nerissa Brown	Exec. Assoc. Dean of Acad. Programs, Gies College of Business
Elhan Ersoz	Clinical Asst. Prof., ACES
Colleen Lewis	Assoc. Dir. of Graduate Programs, Grainger College of Eng.
Ismini Lourentzou	Asst. Prof., School of Info. Sci.
Liam Magee	Prof., College of Education
Luc Paquette	Assoc. Prof., College of Education
John Reid	Exec. Dir., Center for Digital Agriculture
Kevin Scharp	Prof., College of LAS
David Ward	Assoc. Prof., Univ. Library
Steve Witt	Prof., Univ. Library
Wojtek Chodzko-Zajko	Vice Provost for Grad. Ed. & Dean, Graduate College (ex officio)
Ingrid Fulmer	Advisor for Strategic Initiatives, Office of the Provost (ex officio)
Kevin Jackson	Vice Provost for Undergrad. Ed., Office of the Provost (ex officio)
Allison McKinney	Asst. Dean, Graduate College (ex officio)



Goals: Pathways to AI Education

Ensure all students achieve AI Fluency

- **Effective:** How do I effectively use AI tools in my discipline?
- **Reflective:** How do I verify AI outputs? How do I resolve conflicting sources of information?
- **Responsible:** What are appropriate uses of AI?

Opportunity for all students to be AI innovators

- **AI & ML Technologies:** How do I build new models to predict, regress, and generate?
- **Agentic AI Systems:** How do I build efficient and effective workflows that leverage AI models?
- **Human-Centric AI:** How do I design policies and organizations to ensure that people and AI work well together?

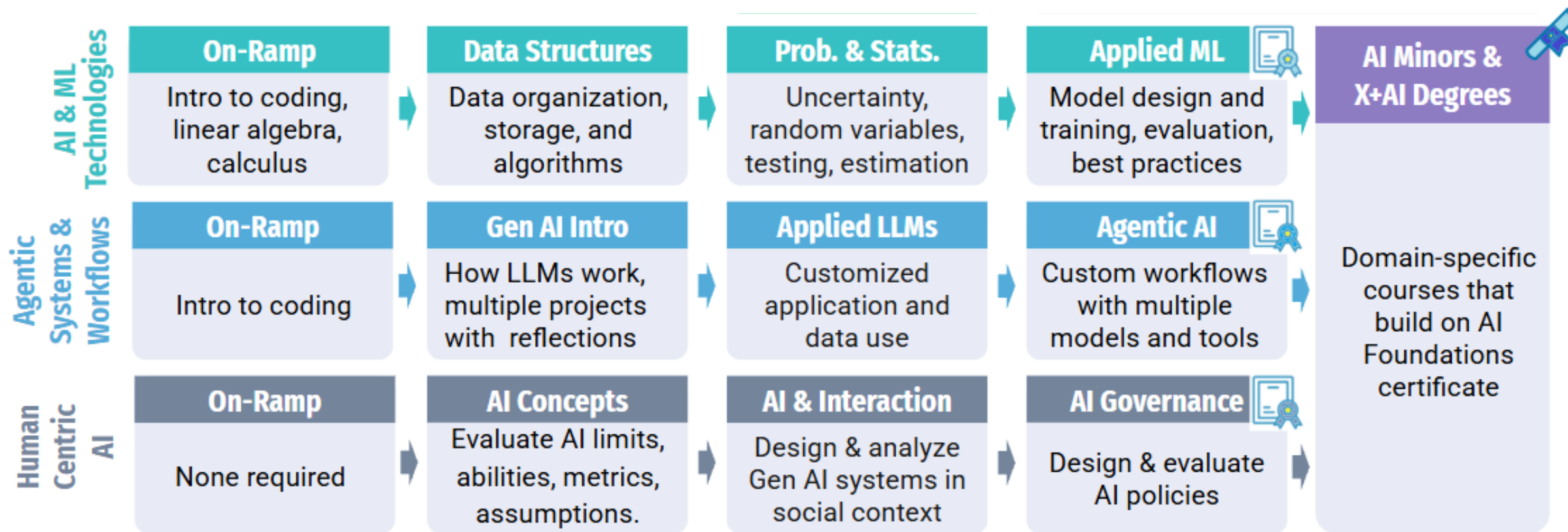


AI fluency is integrated into the curriculum of each major

1. Integrate modules on basics into first-semester courses, e.g. ENG 100.
2. Teach domain-specific tools, such as AI-assisted coding, within existing courses.
3. Reinforce critical thinking, problem solving, and responsible AI use in senior projects and capstone courses.



Three paths to credentialed AI innovation within in the context of a discipline: build, integrate, thrive with AI



How U of I is developing AI pathways

1. Fluency

- New modules designed for entry point course in engineering
- Summer course development programs

2. Courses & Credentials

- In CS: revise existing and create new programs
- Courses at all levels on exploring generative AI, conversational coding, applied LLMs, and agentic AI
- Design new certificates, minors, majors, blended majors --- less need for how to build AI than use of AI



Goals: AI Adoption and Adaptation

- **Adapt assessment and teaching** to increase engagement, emphasize process over outcome, and help students learn more effectively
- Help **students and faculty navigate changes** in technology, education, and work



How U of I is facilitating adoption and adaptation

Socialize AI: acknowledge mixed and negative feelings, help navigate change, establish norms

- **Highlight:** “**AI Industry Insight**” alumni panel
- Touchpoint groups, panels, round-tables, and events

Enable Faculty: equip with time, support, training, incentives

- **Highlight:** **AI Curriculum Integration Program / Summer AI Studio** this summer
- Other recommendations: 1-1 consultants, innovation awards



Summer AI Studio

- Two programs: Campus & Engineering
- Faculty paid for 6 week program to address AI fluency in early sequence courses
- Equip faculty with tools, foundations, pedagogy
- Build cohorts, share knowledge
- Evaluate, learn, repeat

Week 1: Foundations **IN-PERSON**

June 15 & 16 | 10 AM – 3 PM

AI capabilities, ethics, and pedagogical frameworks.

Week 2: Design **IN-PERSON**

June 22 & 23 | 10 AM – 3 PM

Instructional ideation and course mapping.

Week 3: Prototype

Flexible | Team Support

Participants engage in hands-on design sessions to develop working prototypes of their AI-enabled course components. Instructional designers and AI tool specialists provide real-time guidance throughout the process.

Week 4: Testing & Peer Review

Flexible | Team Support

Faculty participate in structured peer-review sessions where prototypes are tested and critiqued. Participants simulate the student experience, evaluate AI outputs, and surface potential challenges around student use, transparency, and assessment integrity.

Week 5: Integration & Implementation

Flexible | Team Support

Participants finalize course revisions, integrate AI-enabled components into their syllabi, and develop assessment strategies that reflect responsible AI use. Each faculty member completes a structured teaching package — including student-facing instructions, an AI transparency policy, and documentation of intended learning outcomes — ready for Fall implementation.



Meeting the AI challenge takes large university-wide effort

Campus AI Curriculum Committee: Derek Hoiem, Shaowen Wang, Brandon Batzloff, Amanda Brantner, Nerissa Brown, Elhan Ersoz, Colleen Lewis, Ismini Lourentzou, Liam Magee, Luc Paquette, John Reid, Kevin Scharp, David Ward, Steve Witt, Wojtek Chodsko-Zajko, Ingrid Fulmer, Kevin Jackson, Allison McKinney

Engineering AI Curriculum Committee: Abdu Alawini, Mani Golparvar, Derek Hoiem, Tomasz Kozlowski, Olga Mironenko, Melkior Ornik, Alex Schwing, Eric Shaffer, Rich Sowers, Brad Butler, Philippe Geubelle

LAS AI Task Force – AI in Education Committee: Nick Jackson, Kristi R. McDuffie, Anu Murphy, Adam Mohamed Osman, Surangi W. Punyasena, Cassandra Rosado, Robert C. Steltman, Shaowen Wang, Ruqing Zhu

AI Touchpoint Groups: Derek Hoiem, Amir Malvandi, Sunoj Shajahan, Melkior Ornik, Jenny Amos, Lewis James Lehe, Hadi Meidani, Diwakar Shukla, Alexander Schwing, Jennifer Bernhard, Richard Sowers, Dallas Trinkle, Iwona M Jasiuk, Tomasz Kozlowski, Mark Neubauer, Eric Shaffer

AI Credentials & Objectives and Curricular Revision: Tal August, Geoffrey Challen, Max Fowler, John Hart, Derek Hoiem, Eric Shaffer, Luther Tychonievich, Lawrence Angrave, Chandra Chekuri, Margaret Fleck, Brighten Godfrey

AICI Course Program: Jay Mann, Jonathan Makela, Alex Schwing, Abdu Alawini, Eric Kuo, Derek Hoiem

Provost panels and coffee hours: Ingrid Fulmer

AI Industry Panels: Leigh Deusinger, Jonathan Makela, Jay Mann

CITL AI Modules and AI Course Summit: Jim Wentworth

Curriculum Proposals & Process: Keri Pipkins, Brooke Newell

ENG 100 / 300 AI modules: Murillo Soranso, Derek Hoiem

Adapting and proposing courses: Melkior Ornik, Geoffrey Challen, Tomasz Kozlowski, ...

And so many more raising funding, revising curricula, proposing new programs, meeting students 1-on-1, holding town halls and panels



Thank you & Discussion

