

CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA

ACADEMIC SENATE

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

REPORT TO

THE ACADEMIC SENATE

AP-024-256

New Minor in Artificial Intelligence

Academic Programs Committee – Date: 01/21/2026

Executive Committee – Date Received and Forwarded: 04/08/2026

Academic Senate – Date: 04/15/2026

First Reading

BACKGROUND:

The Computer Science (CS) department has proposed a new minor in Artificial Intelligence (AI). The minor is open to both CS majors and non-majors and is designed to provide students with theoretical and practical knowledge of algorithms, programming tools, and ethical considerations in the use of AI.

The rapid growth of artificial intelligence and its expanding impact across industries has increased demand for graduates with AI-related competencies. This minor aims to better prepare students from a wide range of disciplines to adapt to evolving workforce needs and technological advancements.

RESOURCES CONSULTED:

- Dr. Amar Raheja, Chair, Computer Science Department
- Dr. Alison Baski, Dean, College of Science
- Dr. Harshavardhan Deoghare, Associate Dean, College of Science
- Dr. Anas Salah Eddin, Associate Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Dr. Halimah El Naga, Chair, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Dr. Shokoufeh Mirzaei, Chair, Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering
- Dr. Andrew Ketsdever, Dean, College of Engineering
- Dr. Victor Okhuysen, Associate Dean, College of Engineering
- Dr. M. Ronald Yeung, Associate Dean, College of Engineering
- Dr. Zhongming Ma, Chair, Department of Computer Information Systems
- Dr. Sandeep Krishnamurthy, Dean, College of Business Administration
- Dr. Cheryl Wyrick, Associate Dean, College of Business Administration
- Dr. Pia Gupta, Associate Dean, College of Business Administration

Consultation across departments was broadly supportive. A limited concern was raised regarding the use of the term “Artificial Intelligence” in the minor’s name, noting that it is a broad term spanning multiple disciplines and may be used in future program development. However, no objections were raised to the proposal overall.

DISCUSSION:

The Committee reviewed the proposal and found justification for the creation of the minor. Artificial intelligence is a well-established and rapidly evolving subfield of computer science with significant applications across disciplines. The proposed curriculum reflects both foundational computing principles and interdisciplinary applications, drawing on courses from Computer Science, Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering, and Computer Information Systems

The Committee discussed curricular considerations, particularly regarding course prerequisites. Several courses required adjustments to prerequisite structures to ensure accessibility for non-CS and non-Data Science majors. The Committee supports the proposed updates through Curriculog to align prerequisites with the intended interdisciplinary audience while maintaining academic rigor.

With respect to naming, the Committee considered the concern raised during consultation. After discussion, the majority of the Committee determined that the use of “Artificial Intelligence” as the minor’s name is appropriate and consistent with academic norms. The term is widely recognized within academia and industry as a core area of computer science, and similar programs are commonly offered under this designation at peer institutions. Here are just some examples of other universities with AI majors/minors, all housed of course in their respective School/Department of Computer Science (few examples):

- CMU - CS BS in AI
- UCSD- BS in AI - <https://cse.ucsd.edu/undergraduate/bs-artificial-intelligence-0>
- Stanford AI track (in CS)
- Illinois Institute of Technology Major - CS BS in AI
- Northwestern Minor - CS Minor in AI
- Edinburgh (UK) - CS BSc in AI

The Committee further noted that the use of “Artificial Intelligence” for this minor does not preclude or limit the development of future programs in other disciplines that may incorporate AI with a contextual qualifier (e.g., Artificial Intelligence in Business, Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare, or existing programs such as AI Ethics and Society). Such naming distinctions remain available to appropriately differentiate disciplinary applications.

While perspectives on naming varied during deliberation, the Committee reached overall majority support for retaining the proposed title, recognizing both its disciplinary grounding and its clarity for students and employers. The Committee also acknowledges that established curricular processes allow for future revisions if needed.

Additionally, the minor is expected to enhance student recruitment and retention by aligning with strong and growing student interest in AI-related fields, thereby strengthening the university’s competitive position.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Academic Programs Committee recommends approval of the new Minor in Artificial Intelligence.