

Meta Description: Learn more about the best artificial intelligence degree programs, including coursework examples, what to expect, and how to choose the best AI degree for you.

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<h1>Best Artificial Intelligence Degrees</h1>

For individuals who like being on the cutting edge of technology, artificial intelligence is a rapidly evolving field with opportunities for innovation and growth. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) predicts [a 21% increase](#) in jobs for AI professionals through 2031, and the field's [median annual salary](#) is \$131,490.

The first step towards a career in AI is usually a bachelor's or master's degree in AI or a related field. This article features Intelligent.com's list of the best in-person artificial intelligence degree programs of 2023, including bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees. Because of AI's complex nature, this list includes a variety of majors, like computer science, data science, and engineering, that can lead to AI careers.

Beyond program recommendations, this article also covers how to choose an AI degree program, what to expect from an AI degree program, and provides answers to frequently asked questions.

<h2>What Can I Expect from an Artificial Intelligence Degree Program?</h2>

Artificial intelligence (AI) refers to computer software that enables machines to mimic human cognitive functions, including decision-making, language translation, and using real-time data to adjust responses and performance.

AI is also used as a catch-all term for the technology's many specialized sub-fields, such as machine learning, data science, natural language processing, and more.

Because of the breadth of the field, students can opt for a general AI degree program that covers concepts and skills in computer science, math, statistics and more, or a more specialized degree focusing on a particular component of AI. For example, students who want to mine, analyze and visualize data may want to explore a data science degree program. Students should note that specialized degree programs are more widely available at the master's and doctoral level.

AI degree programs may have requirements for prior coursework or experience, particularly at the graduate level. Students should review eligibility requirements carefully before applying to a

program. For those starting their AI education journey, when choosing a bachelor's degree program, it's worth considering if you'll pursue a master's degree in the future. Some schools offer dual degree programs which allow students to begin earning graduate credit while still working on their bachelor's.

<h2>Best Accredited Artificial Intelligence Degree Programs</h2>

<h3>How we rank programs</h3>

This list features some of the best artificial intelligence undergraduate and graduate degree programs in the U.S. All are offered at nonprofit, accredited institutions, either public or private, with a high standard of academic quality for post-secondary institutions.

We evaluated each degree program on tuition costs, admission, retention and graduation rates, faculty, reputation, and student resources. Then we calculated the Intelligent Score on a scale of 0 to 100. Read more about our [ranking methodology](#).

Next, we compared our picks to a list of aggregated college rankings from reputable publications like the U.S. News & World Report, among others, to simplify a student's college search. We pored through these rankings so students don't have to.

- School blurbs for top 10 (no superlatives)

<h2>Still Looking for the Right Fit? Discover Similar Programs</h2>

There are a variety of options for studying artificial intelligence, including online programs, degrees in similar fields, and certificate programs. Intelligent.com has reviewed dozens of related programs to help you understand all your options and find the AI program that's right for you.

[Add pertinent links]

<h2>What Courses Will I Take in an Artificial Intelligence Degree?</h2>

While the specific courses you take will vary by program, AI is an interdisciplinary field that typically combines coursework in computer science, programming, mathematics, data science and more.

<h3>Computer science</h3>

Depending on their degree level students will take introductory or advanced courses covering computer science concepts including logic and proofs; sets, functions, relations, sequences and summations; number representations; counting; analysis of algorithms, and more.

<h3>AI</h3>

Within an AI degree program, there will be classes that cover the basic principles of how AI works. Topics may include an introduction to heuristic methods, problem representation and search methods, classic AI techniques, and a review of the controversial issues of the AI paradigm of cognition as computation.

<h3>Machine learning</h3>

As a key subfield of AI, machine learning is a critical part of an AI education. Courses in machine learning typically cover the design and function of systems that learn from data and improve with experience. Methods taught in machine learning classes may include supervised learning and predictive modeling; decision trees, rule induction, nearest neighbors, Bayesian methods, neural networks, support vector machines, and model ensembles.

<h3>Ethics</h3>

Given the massive implications AI can have on almost every facet of human life, it's not surprising that most AI degree programs include some coursework dealing with the ethical components of the technology. Most courses are designed to increase students' understanding of professional and ethical responsibilities in national, international, and cross-cultural environments, and help students develop a general ethical framework for handling those responsibilities.

<h2>What Can I Do With an Artificial Intelligence Degree?</h2>

<h3>Career outlook</h3>

Thanks to rapid developments in the AI field and the interest in finding new ways to expand and apply the technology, the career outlook is strong. The BLS categorizes AI professionals as [computer and information research scientists](#), and predicts that employment in this field will grow 21% by 2031, resulting in over 7,000 new jobs. For related fields, like [data science](#), BLS predicts even more growth, with an estimated 40,500 new positions by 2031.

<h3>Career paths</h3>

AI offers students multiple career paths in a variety of industries. Potential job include:

- Machine learning engineers teach AI models to process data

- Software engineers develop and maintain software for AI applications
- Data scientists collect and analyze data to extract meaning from it
- Business intelligence analysts use business data and AI programs to predict future business trends
- Robotics engineers create machines that use AI to perform tasks

Students can also consider an AI career path based on industry, with opportunities available in fields like healthcare, banking and finance, transportation and automotive, business, and more.

Students who hold bachelor's degrees typically start in entry-level jobs. To qualify for advanced or leadership roles, students may need a master's degree or a bachelor's degree with a minimum level of experience.

<h3>Associate software engineer</h3>

Earning Potential: \$90,950 - \$123,050 per year

Education: Bachelor, Master or Doctorate of Science degree from an accredited course of study, in Computer Engineering, Software Engineering, Computer Science, Mathematics, Physics or other technical degree

This position will involve creating software for world class, next generation disruptive systems and technologies. The selected candidate will work with the Disruptive Computing & Networks (DC&N) product team focused on the concept, requirements, architecture, design and development of a future system. Qualifications include two or more years of experience designing and developing software for a real time or non-real-time system, experience with full software development lifecycles, and automating software builds, unit tests, integration tests, deployment, and installations using a DevOps tool chain (Gitlab, Jenkins, Nexus, Artifactory, etc).

<h3>Conversational AI/NLP Engineer</h3>

Earning Potential: \$130,000 per year

Education: Bachelor's degree in computer science, electrical engineering, computational linguistics or related field

The Conversational AI/NLP Engineer will work on a multi-disciplinary team of content developers, artists, software engineers and QA specialists to develop educational and training products that utilize conversational AI simulations with avatars. This individual will lead the development and integration of new NLP capabilities into Alelo's elearning platform, and use them to create new conversational learning experiences.

<h2>Find the Tools You Need to Get Started on Your Degree</h2>

There are many things to consider when preparing to enroll in a degree program. Should you take courses online or in-person? How will you pay for your education? What if you already have college credits, but need to finish your degree? Intelligent.com has expert advice and resources answering these and other questions to help you get started on your degree.

[Add pertinent links]

<h2>How to Choose the Artificial Intelligence Degree That's Right for You</h2>

<h3>Step 1: Choose your area of study</h3>

Getting clarity on your future goals and what you want from an AI degree program is an essential first step in choosing the right program for you. Whether you want to train for a particular job, explore options in a specific industry, or prepare for graduate study will inform what you're looking for in your search.

This is also a good time to reflect on what you need from a degree program in terms of schedule and structure. Will you enroll full-time or part-time? Can you attend daytime classes, or do you need evening or weekend classes? Can you commit to a fully in-person program, or will hybrid classes suit you better?

<h3>Step 2: Research schools and programs</h3>

With the parameters you set in step one, you can begin in-depth research of AI degree programs.

When exploring schools, be sure to confirm that the programs you're considering are offered by accredited institutions. Schools in the U.S. can have either [regional or national accreditation](#), with regional accreditation being more widely accepted. This is important for students who plan to transfer between schools or pursue an advanced degree, as regionally accredited schools only accept credits and degrees from other institutions with regional accreditation.

Some programs may also have accreditation through [ABET](#), a nonprofit agency that accredits computing programs, among other engineering and tech-related degrees. This accreditation confirms that the program meets quality standards for education in areas like computer science and data science.

As you review your options, the following questions can help you identify if a school's the right fit:

- What does the curriculum include and how does it align with your interests and career goals?

- Who are the faculty and what are their AI areas of expertise?
- Does the program have internship or experiential learning components
- What is the culture of the AI department and overall institution like?
- What academic, career, and health support services are available?
- What type of funding options, including scholarships, grants, and discounts, are available?

You can find answers to most of these questions by visiting the school's website or contacting the school's admissions office. Other ways to explore colleges and programs include social media, attending virtual or in-person open houses, and connecting with current students and faculty.

<h3>Step 3: Prepare for applications and tests</h3>

When reviewing schools, be mindful of their application requirements and deadlines. If you're considering a lot of schools, keeping track of this information via a spreadsheet or document can be helpful.

Applications processes vary by school, but generally speaking, an application for an AI degree program will include:

- Application
- Official transcripts (high school transcripts for first-time freshmen, college transcripts for transfer and graduate students)
- Letter(s) of recommendation
- Personal statement
- Standardized test scores ([SAT](#) or [ACT](#) for first-time freshmen, [GRE](#) for graduate students)

It's worth noting that schools are increasingly moving toward [test-optional or test-blind](#) procedures for standardized tests. Before taking these exams, confirm whether they're required by any of the schools to which you're applying.

Some programs, especially those at the graduate level, may have specific requirements for GPA, undergraduate major, coursework, or professional experience. Verify that you meet the minimum eligibility requirements for a program before applying.

<h3>Step 4: Select your program</h3>

Based on your parameters and eligibility, you should be able to choose the program or programs you want to apply to. There's no magic number of applications to submit. Some students focus on one or two schools, especially if they have a specific concentration in mind, while others cast a wider net to improve chances of admission.

Students should be mindful of application deadlines, particularly for competitive programs. Some schools offer multiple start terms, while others only accept new students once a year. Missing deadlines can result in delays in starting your AI education.

<h3>Step 5: Determine how you'll pay for your degree</h3>

During the research process, you'll also want to learn about the school's tuition, room and board costs, and other fees for on-campus students, as well as financial aid opportunities. Speak to a financial aid counselor at the school to determine what scholarships, grants, discounts and work opportunities the institution offers.

Most schools use the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) (FAFSA) to determine eligibility for financial aid, including federal student loans. Students and their families should plan to complete the FAFSA prior to enrolling to help get a full picture of how much aid they'll be receiving. Students who will be employed during their program should find out if their employer offers tuition assistance benefits, which can offset the cost of a degree. Many [tech companies](#), including Amazon, Apple, and Oracle offer tuition assistance to students studying relevant subjects.

<h2>Artificial Intelligence Not For You? Check Out These Related Careers</h2>

- [Internal linking to similar careers \(Landing pages\)](#)

<h2>Frequently Asked Questions About Artificial Intelligence Degree Programs</h2>

<h3>What are the admissions requirements for an AI degree program?</h3>

This will vary depending on the specific school, program, and degree level. Students should always confirm admissions procedures and requirements with the school before starting an application.

In general, associate and bachelor's degree programs may have fewer eligibility requirements, although they might have thresholds for GPA or requirements for specific high school coursework. An advanced AI degree program will likely seek candidates who have a specific undergraduate degree or coursework and some professional work experience.

Programs usually look for the following qualities in AI majors:

- Strong math skills, particularly in areas of linear algebra, probability and statistics
- Familiarity with computer programming

- Basic understanding of algorithms and frameworks
- Analytical and critical thinking skills
- Problem-solving abilities
- Time management and organization skills
- Interest in collaboration
- Communication skills

<h3>What is the average cost of an AI degree program?</h3>

According to [DataUSA](#), for AI degree programs, the median annual tuition is \$10,037 for in-state students at public universities, and \$55,651 at private universities. This doesn't note whether these programs are bachelor's degrees or master's degrees, which can impact the cost of the degree.

Two key factors in the cost of an AI degree is whether the student is attending a public or private university, and, if it's public, whether the student pays in-state or out-of-state tuition.

Overall, tuition at public universities tends to be lower, particularly for state residents. The [National Center for Education Statistics](#) (NCES) reports that in the 2020-21 academic year, average tuition and fees for four-year undergraduate degrees was \$9,375 for in-state students at public universities. Meanwhile, private school tuition for the same year averaged \$32,825 at private schools. Non-resident public university students paid an average of \$27,091 for tuition and fees.

Students should always speak to a financial aid counselor to get a clear understanding of what they will owe and what their financial aid options are before enrolling.

<h3>How long does it take to complete an AI degree?</h3>

This mainly depends on the type of degree a student is completing and what their enrollment status is. Bachelor's degrees, which require a minimum of 120 credits, typically take four years to complete. Master's degrees, which can range from 30-60 credits, can take anywhere from one to three years of full-time study to complete. However, these standards are based on full-time enrollment (usually 30 credits per academic year for bachelor's and 12 credits for master's). Part-time enrollment usually means students will take longer to complete their degree.

<h3>How hard is a degree in AI?</h3>

This depends on a few factors, including an individual student's abilities, interests, and experiences, as well as the degree they're pursuing. Undergraduate programs focus on foundational concepts and skills needed for AI, often with opportunities for practical application in experiential learning settings. As advanced degrees, master's and doctoral programs are

inherently more challenging, as they introduce more complex concepts and task students with solving new problems with research components.

However, students with strong math, computer science, and analytical skills, as well as a passion for AI and its applications, will likely meet the degree's challenges with enthusiasm and determination.

<h3>Is a degree in AI worth it?</h3>

For students who put the time and effort into their education, earning an AI degree comes with many benefits.

From a career outlook standpoint, an AI degree prepares students for a number of in-demand, high-earning jobs, including [artificial intelligence engineer](#), [computer and information research scientists](#), and [data scientists](#).

While specific requirements vary, most employers require a bachelor's degree for entry-level positions and a master's for advanced roles. An AI degree demonstrates to potential employers that you have the necessary skills and knowledge to perform the job's tasks. Students in AI programs also get access to hands-on learning opportunities through labs, research projects, and internships.

Another benefit is networking. Connecting with classmates, instructors, and other members of the AI community will help students find employment, mentors, and other professional development opportunities.

<h3>Which degree is best for AI?</h3>

The best AI degree is the one that gives students the knowledge and tools they need for the job opportunities and experience they want.

Students who are just starting out may benefit from a general degree in AI or computer science that covers the core concepts and skills needed for the field.

Those who are interested in a specific area of AI, such as machine learning, autonomous systems, or statistics, may prefer to seek out degree programs that focus on those topics.

To find out what AI skills and experience employers seek, review postings for AI-related jobs. You can review program curriculums to confirm that you'll give you the knowledge and tools you'll need to be competitive in the job market.

