

MAJOR IN COMPUTER SCIENCE, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND MACHINE LEARNING CONCENTRATION

Artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) are about creating intelligent systems – systems that perceive and respond to the world around them. AI and ML systems are everywhere, in our cars and smartphones, and businesses of all sizes are investing in these areas.

The AI/ML concentration combines a rigorous computer science degree with coursework in AI, ML, and big data. This concentration also provides students the necessary foundational coursework and skills in math, statistics, and data science.

Learning Objectives

Upon successfully completing this program, students will be able to:

1. Develop AI and ML approaches for complex real-world problems.
2. Deploy high-performance computing tools for the analysis of large datasets.

3. Use a broad range of AI and ML tools, techniques, and algorithms.
4. Apply AI and ML tools in an ethical and socially responsible manner, with an awareness of biases that can result from their indiscriminate use.
5. Communicate results of complex analyses verbally and in writing using appropriate visualization techniques.
6. Confidently pursue graduate studies or professional employment in AI/ML and computer science.

Potential Occupations

In addition to the career opportunities open to all computer science graduates, the AI/ML concentration opens career paths that include:

Machine learning engineer, data scientist, business intelligence developer, big data engineer, data mining analyst, natural language processing analyst, computer vision engineer.

Requirements Effective Fall 2025

A minimum grade of C (2.000) is required in CO 150 and in all CS, DSCI, MATH, and STAT courses which are required for graduation .

Freshman

		AUCC	Credits
CO 150	College Composition (GT-CO2)	1A	3
CS 201/PHIL 201	Ethical Computing Systems (GT-AH3)	3B	3
MATH 156 or 160 ¹	Mathematics for Computational Science I (GT-MA1) Calculus for Physical Scientists I (GT-MA1)	1B	4
Select one group from the following: ²			5-9
Group A:			
CS 150A or 150B	Culture and Coding: Java (GT-AH3) Culture and Coding: Python (GT-AH3)	3B	
CS 162 or 164	CS1–Introduction to Java Programming CS1–Computational Thinking with Java		
Group B:			
CS 152	Python for STEM		
CS 162 or 164	CS1–Introduction to Java Programming CS1–Computational Thinking with Java		
Arts and Humanities (https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#arts-and-humanities)		3B	
Group C:			
CS 163	CS1–No Prior Programming Experience		
Arts and Humanities (https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#arts-and-humanities)		3B	
Select at least two courses totaling a minimum of 7 credits from the following (one course must be or include the sequenced laboratory):			7
AA 100 & AA 101	Introduction to Astronomy (GT-SC2)	3A	
ANTH 120 & ANTH 121	Human Origins and Variation (GT-SC2)	3A	
BZ 110 & BZ 111	Principles of Animal Biology (GT-SC2)	3A	
BZ 120	Principles of Plant Biology (GT-SC1)	3A	

CHEM 107 & CHEM 108	Fundamentals of Chemistry (GT-SC2)	3A	
CHEM 111 & CHEM 112	General Chemistry I (GT-SC2)	3A	
GEOL 120 & GEOL 121	Geology and Society (GT-SC2)	3A	
GEOL 122 & GEOL 121	Geoscience–Climate and Environmental Change (GT-SC2)	3A	
GEOL 124 & GEOL 121	Earth Resources and Sustainability (GT-SC2)	3A	
GEOL 150	Dynamic Earth (GT-SC2)	3A	
HONR 292A	Honors Seminar: Knowing in the Sciences	3A	
LIFE 102	Attributes of Living Systems (GT-SC1)	3A	
LIFE 103	Biology of Organisms-Animals and Plants (GT-SC1)	3A	
LIFE 201A	Introductory Genetics: Applied/Population/Conservation/Ecological (GT-SC2)	3A	
LIFE 201B	Introductory Genetics: Molecular/Immunological/Developmental (GT-SC2)	3A	
LIFE 220/LAND 220	Fundamentals of Ecology (GT-SC2)	3A	
NR 150	Oceanography (GT-SC2)	3A	
PH 121	General Physics I (GT-SC1)	3A	
PH 122	General Physics II (GT-SC1)	3A	
PH 141	Physics for Scientists and Engineers I (GT-SC1)	3A	
PH 142	Physics for Scientists and Engineers II (GT-SC1)	3A	
1C (https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#aucc) Electives ³		1C	3 1-5
Total Credits			30
Sophomore			
CS 165	CS2–Data Structures		4
CS 220	Discrete Structures and the Applications		4
MATH 256 or 161	Mathematics for Computational Science II Calculus for Physical Scientists II (GT-MA1)		4
Select one group from the following:			4-5
Group A			
CS 214	Software Development		
CT 301	C++ Fundamentals		
Group B			
CS 253	Software Development with C++		
Select one course from the following:			4
CS 250	Computer Systems Foundations		
CS 270	Computer Organization		
Select one course from the following:			3-4
DSCI 369	Linear Algebra for Data Science		
MATH 369	Linear Algebra I		
Select one course from the following:			1-3
STAT 301	Introduction to Applied Statistical Methods		
STAT 302A	Statistics Supplement: General Applications		
STAT 307	Introduction to Biostatistics		
STAT 315	Intro to Theory and Practice of Statistics		
Historical Perspectives (https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#historical-perspectives)		3D	3
Elective			0-3
Total Credits			30-31

Junior

CS 314	Software Engineering	4A,4B	3
CS 320	Algorithms--Theory and Practice		3
CS 345	Machine Learning Foundations and Practice		3
CS 370	Operating Systems		3
Technical Electives - select a minimum of six credits from the following:			6-8
DSCI 235	Data Wrangling		
DSCI 320/MATH 320	Optimization Methods in Data Science		
DSCI 335	Inferential Reasoning in Data Analysis		
DSCI 336	Data Graphics and Visualization		
DSCI 473	Introduction to Geometric Data Analysis		
DSCI 475	Topological Data Analysis		
MATH 261	Calculus for Physical Scientists III		
MATH 301	Introduction to Combinatorial Theory		
MATH 331	Introduction to Mathematical Modeling		
MATH 360	Mathematics of Information Security		
MATH 430/ECE 430	Fourier and Wavelet Analysis with Apps		
MATH 450	Introduction to Numerical Analysis I		
STAT 341	Statistical Data Analysis I		
STAT 342	Statistical Data Analysis II		
STAT 400	Statistical Computing		
STAT 420	Probability and Mathematical Statistics I		
CS course numbered 300- or above, excluding 380-399 and 480-499			3-4
Advanced Writing (https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#advanced-writing)		2	3
Social and Behavioral Sciences (https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#social-behavioral-sciences)		3C	3
Elective			0-3
Total Credits			30

Senior

Capstone Courses - select two courses from the following (one of the selected courses will fulfill AUCC 4C):			8
CS 425	Introduction to Bioinformatics Algorithms	4C	
CS 440	Introduction to Artificial Intelligence	4C	
CS 445	Introduction to Machine Learning	4C	
Systems Elective - select one course from the following:			4
CS 435	Introduction to Big Data		
CS 455	Introduction to Distributed Systems		
CS 475	Parallel Programming		
Additional Computer Science Course - select one course from the following:			4
CS 410	Introduction to Computer Graphics		
CS 425	Introduction to Bioinformatics Algorithms		
CS 430	Database Systems		
CS 435	Introduction to Big Data		
CS 440	Introduction to Artificial Intelligence		
CS 445	Introduction to Machine Learning		
CS 455	Introduction to Distributed Systems		
CS 462	Engaging in Virtual Worlds		
CS 464	Principles of Human-Computer Interaction		
CS 465	Multimodal Interaction for 3D User Interfaces		
CS 475	Parallel Programming		

Electives ⁴	13-14
Total Credits	29-30
Program Total Credits:	120

- ¹ MATH 156 is recommended for computer science majors who do not already have MATH 160 credit.
- ² Recommended sequence for most incoming students is Group A: CS 150B to CS 164.
- ³ CS 192 or other seminar course is a recommended elective for incoming first semester students.
- ⁴ Select enough elective credits to bring the program total to a minimum of 120 credits, of which at least 42 must be upper-division (300- to 400-level).

Major Completion Map

Distinctive Requirements for Degree Program:

To prepare for first semester: The curriculum for the Computer Science major assumes students enter college prepared to take calculus. Entering students who are not prepared to take calculus will need to fulfill pre-calculus requirements in the first semester. All students must maintain a C (2.000) or better in CO 150 and in all CS, DSCI, MATH, and STAT courses which are required for graduation.

Freshman

Semester 1	Critical	Recommended	AUCC	Credits
CO 150 College Composition (GT-CO2)	X		1A	3
First course from Group A, B, or C (See options in Concentration Requirements Tab)	X		3B	3
Department Approved Science (See list on Concentration Requirements Tab)	X		3A	4
1C (https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#aucc)	X		1C	3
Elective		X		1
MATH 124 and MATH 126 may be necessary for some students to fulfill pre-calculus requirements.	X			
Total Credits				14

Semester 2	Critical	Recommended	AUCC	Credits
CS 201/PHIL 201 Ethical Computing Systems (GT-AH3)	X		3B	3
MATH 156 or 160 Mathematics for Computational Science I (GT-MA1) Calculus for Physical Scientists I (GT-MA1)	X		1B	4
Remaining course(s) from Group A, B, or C (See options in Concentration Requirements Tab)	X			2-6
Department Approved Science with Lab (See list on Concentration Requirements Tab)	X		3A	3
Electives		X		0-4
CO 150 must be completed by the end of Semester 2 with a grade of C or better.	X			
Total Credits				16

Sophomore

Semester 3	Critical	Recommended	AUCC	Credits
CS 165 CS2--Data Structures	X			4
CS 220 Discrete Structures and the Applications	X			4
Select one course from the following:	X			3-4
DSCI 369 Linear Algebra for Data Science				
MATH 369 Linear Algebra I				
Historical Perspectives (https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#historical-perspectives)		X	3D	3
Total Credits				14-15

Semester 4	Critical	Recommended	AUCC	Credits
MATH 256 or 161 Mathematics for Computational Science II Calculus for Physical Scientists II (GT-MA1)		X		4

Select one group from the following:		X			4-5
Group A					
CS 214	Software Development				
CT 301	C++ Fundamentals				
Group B					
CS 253	Software Development with C++				
Select one course from the following:					4
CS 250	Computer Systems Foundations				
CS 270	Computer Organization				
Select one course from the following:		X			1-3
STAT 301	Introduction to Applied Statistical Methods				
STAT 302A	Statistics Supplement: General Applications				
STAT 307	Introduction to Biostatistics				
STAT 315	Intro to Theory and Practice of Statistics				
Elective				X	0-3
CS 165 and CS 220 and (CS 250 or CS 270) must be completed by the end of Semester 4.		X			
MATH 156 or MATH 160 and MATH 369 or DSCI 369 must be completed by the end of Semester 4.		X			
Total Credits					16
Junior					
Semester 5		Critical	Recommended	AUCC	Credits
CS 320	Algorithms--Theory and Practice	X			3
CS 370	Operating Systems	X			3
Advanced Writing (https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#advanced-writing)			X	2	3
Social and Behavioral Sciences (https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#social-behavioral-sciences)			X	3C	3
Elective			X		0-3
CS 253 must be completed by the end of Semester 5.		X			
Total Credits					12-15
Semester 6		Critical	Recommended	AUCC	Credits
CS 314	Software Engineering	X		4A,4B	3
CS 345	Machine Learning Foundations and Practice	X			3
Technical Electives (See list on Concentration Requirements Tab)		X			6-8
One CS course numbered 300- or above, excluding 380-399 and 480-499		X			3-4
CS 314 and CS 320 and CS 370 must be completed by the end of Semester 6.		X			
Total Credits					15-18
Senior					
Semester 7		Critical	Recommended	AUCC	Credits
Capstone Course (See list on Concentration Requirements tab)		X		4C	4
Systems Elective (See list on Concentration Requirements tab)		X			4
Electives			X		7
At least 2 Upper-Division CS classes must be completed by the end of Semester 7.		X			
Total Credits					15
Semester 8		Critical	Recommended	AUCC	Credits
Capstone Course (See list on Concentration Requirements tab)		X			4
Additional Computer Science Course (See list on Concentration Requirements tab)		X			4
Electives			X		6-7

The benchmark courses for the 8th semester are the remaining courses in the entire program of study. X

Total Credits	14-15
Program Total Credits:	120