



Alabama Commission on Higher Education

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April 1, 2026

Lesley Reid, Ph.D.
Interim Provost
The University of Alabama
PO Box 870114
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487

Dear Dr. Reid:

At its meeting on March 13, 2026, the Alabama Commission on Higher Education approved the following academic items for The University of Alabama:

- New Academic Program: Bachelor of Science (BS) in Artificial Intelligence (CIP 11.0102)
- Establishment of a New Major Unit of Instruction: School of Leadership and Policy

In addition, the following information items were accepted by the Commission:

IMPLEMENTATION OF FOR-CREDIT NON-DEGREE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS:

- Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Instructional Design (CIP 13.0501, Level 6)

CHANGES TO THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM INVENTORY:

- PhD in Applied Mathematics (CIP 27.0301) – Deletion Requested

CURRICULAR MODIFICATIONS FOR EXISTING DEGREE PROGRAMS:

- Addition of an Option in Digital Consumer Engagement within the existing BS in Consumer Sciences (CIP 19.0401)

A record of these items is available on the Commission website for your reference:

https://ache.edu/?page_id=16173. For your convenience, we have enclosed the post-implementation conditions for the program that was approved at this meeting.

We look forward to working with you and your staff on matters related to Alabama higher education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robin E. McGill".

Robin E. McGill, Ph.D.
Deputy Director for Academic Affairs

CC: Dr. Tonjanita Johnson
Dr. Chris Coleman
Ms. Brooke Moore
Ms. Shirrell Perryman
Ms. Kristan White

DECISION ITEM: The University of Alabama, Bachelor of Science in Artificial Intelligence (CIP 11.0102)

Staff Presenter: Dr. Robin McGill
Deputy Director for Academic Affairs

Staff Recommendation: That the Commission approve the proposed Bachelor of Science (BS) in Artificial Intelligence.

The program will have the implementation date and post-implementation conditions listed below:

Implementation Date: The proposed program will be implemented in Fall 2026. Based on Commission policy, the proposed program must be implemented by September 1, 2028, or Commission approval will expire. The institution must notify the Commission in writing when the program is implemented or if there is any delay in implementation.

The program will have the implementation date and post-implementation conditions listed below:

Post-Implementation Conditions:

1. That the annual average new enrollment headcount beginning 2027-28 will be at least 9.4, based on the Commission's "Operational Policy on the Approval of New Programs of Instruction and Requirements for Post-Implementation Monitoring" (Administrative Code §300-2-1-.04).
2. That the annual average number of graduates for the period 2027-28 through 2032-33 (six-year average) will be 7.5, based on the adopted graduation requirements as stated in the Code of Alabama 16-5-8(a)(2).
3. That the existing BS in Computer Science (CIP 11.0101) maintain viability in keeping with the adopted graduation requirements as stated in the Code of Alabama 16-5-8(a)(2).
4. That information regarding an overall assessment of the program be provided, particularly as related to objectives stated in the proposal, also including data on related employment and/or pursuit of graduate study.

The University of Alabama (UA) will be required to phase out the program if any of the post-implementation conditions are not met. The institution must present documentation regarding the post-implementation conditions, as well as a general assessment of the program, in a report submitted to the Commission no later than September 1, 2033.

Background: The Code of Alabama, 16-5-8 (c) states that the governing boards of public institutions of higher education in this state and the campuses under their governance or supervision shall not undertake the establishment of a new unit or program of instruction for academic credit with state funds before submitting