

AI Innovation Grant

Purpose

The AI Innovation Grant supports Wisconsin Technical Colleges in advancing the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into teaching, learning, operations, and workforce development. The grant aims to foster innovation, enhance institutional capacity, and ensure alignment with emerging industry needs.

Funds Available and Additional Limitations

- \$2,000,000 will be available for these purposes for November 1, 2025 – June 30, 2027.
- Major/Minor equipment (purchased or leased) may be funded up to 20 percent of the total approved project costs.
- No construction/remodeling costs are allowed.
- No tuition costs are allowed.
- Institutions may combine funds together and submit a consortium grant application.
- Applications must be submitted by March 31, 2026.
- Projects must:
 - Align with the college's internal policies on AI and educational technology use.
 - Demonstrate a commitment to ethical and responsible AI practices.

Measurable Objectives

Include measurable objectives that clearly articulate the purpose and intended outcomes of your proposed activities. These objectives should be brief, specific statements that:

- Identify the need or challenge your project addresses.
- Describe the activity or intervention you plan to implement.
- Specify the measurable outcome you expect to achieve.

Examples:

To support faculty development in emerging technologies, we will deliver a professional learning series on AI applications in technical education, with 90% of participants completing the training and submitting implementation plans.

To promote collaboration, we will establish an AI community of practice with monthly meetings and at least 30 active members from across departments by the end of the grant period.

To ensure program relevance, we will convene an AI industry advisory board to review and validate curriculum updates, with at least three meetings held annually.

Guidance on writing objectives:

- Be specific: Clearly define the activity and who it impacts.
- Use numbers: Include measurable targets (e.g., percentages, counts).
- Focus on outcomes: Describe what success looks like.
- Keep it concise: Limit each objective to 1–2 sentences.

Allowable Activities

Up to 5% can be allocated toward administrative costs. Grant funds may be used for a variety of activities, including but not limited to:

- Curriculum Development
 - Design and implement AI-related competencies, courses, certificates, or degree programs.
 - Integrate AI concepts into existing programs across disciplines.
- Access to AI Tools
 - Provide students, faculty, and staff with access to AI platforms, software, and resources.
 - Development of AI supports (e.g., AI tutors, chatbots, podcasts based on course content), including staff and faculty work to improve knowledge sources for AI tools
 - Support infrastructure upgrades necessary for AI tool deployment.
- Professional Development
 - Facilitate or attend workshops, conferences, and training sessions focused on AI.
 - Develop internal training programs to build AI literacy among employees.
 - Supporting AI communities of practice.
- AI Model Training and Deployment
 - Train AI models to improve institutional operations (e.g., student services, scheduling, predictive analytics).
 - Pilot AI applications that enhance efficiency or decision-making.
- Workforce Alignment
 - Ensure programs reflect current and anticipated AI-related workforce skills.
 - Collaborate with industry partners to validate competencies and program outcomes.

Reporting Requirements

Grantees must submit:

- End of year 1 Final report (must be received on or before November 1, 2026)
- Mid-year 2 progress report (must be received on or before February 15, 2027)
- Final Closing report (must be received on or before November 1, 2027)
- Final Showcase: virtual event for grantees to share project outcomes, lessons learned and achievements (July 2027)

Planning Amounts

District Name	Total Amount for AI Innovation Grant
Blackhawk	\$84,571
Chippewa Valley	\$139,055
Fox Valley	\$169,147
Gateway	\$137,894
Lakeshore	\$76,559
Madison Area	\$195,260
Mid-State	\$90,621
Milwaukee Area	\$239,389
Moraine Park	\$94,594
Nicolet Area	\$70,508
Northcentral	\$113,533
Northeast Wisconsin	\$160,857
Northwood	\$90,709
Southwest Wisconsin	\$79,665
Waukesha County	\$139,177
Western	\$118,461
Total	\$2,000,000

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