CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA

ACADEMIC SENATE

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

REPORT TO

THE ACADEMIC SENATE

AP-006-267

New Certificate in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence

Academic Programs Committee	Date: 09/23/2026
Executive Committee - Received and Forwarded	Date: 10/28/2026
Academic Senate	Date: 11/04/2026
	First Reading

BACKGROUND:

The Computer Science Department proposed a 12-unit, state-supported academic credit Certificate in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence for matriculated Cal Poly Pomona students. The certificate provides students from other disciplines with a focused pathway to develop Data Science and AI competencies for career readiness and further study.

The proposal originated in academic year 2023-24 (AP-033-234) as a self-support certificate and completed Academic Programs Committee consultations to be advanced to the Executive Committee. Its progression was delayed while the University revised its Academic Credit Certificate Programs policy. The department subsequently revised the proposal to meet the new policy, changed the offering to state support, and reduced it to 12 units. Considering the prior review, the Office of Academic Programs and Academic Senate leadership supported to use the earlier consultations and expedite Senate consideration for Spring 2027 implementation.

RESOURCES CONSULTED:

Dr. John Korah, Associate Professor, Computer Science; Dr. Daisy Tang, Professor and former Chair, Computer Science; Dr. Amar Raheja, Chair, Computer Science; Dr. Harshavardhan Deoghare, Associate Dean, College of Science; and

Dr. Yuanjie He, Chair, Computer and Operations Management; Dr. Halimah El Naga, Chair, Electrical and Computer Engineering, and Dr. Ruth Guthrie, Chair, Computer Information Systems

DISCUSSION:

The program is expected to positively impact career readiness since there is a projected increase in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence related positions in the next few years. Similar programs exist at other California State campuses (CSUSB, CSUF, CSUEB, and CSULB).

The revised certificate consists of four existing three-unit courses: CS 1260 Python for Beginners, CS 2410 Fundamentals of Data Science, CS 4210 Machine Learning and Its Applications, and CS 4650 Big Data Analytics and Cloud Computing. No new courses or additional resources are required. The proposal anticipates cohorts of at least 20 students and uses existing faculty, classrooms, and instructional offerings.

Eligibility is limited to matriculated CPP undergraduates with a minimum 2.0 GPA and six semester units including college algebra and introductory statistics. Students in the Computer Science major or the Computer Science, Data Science, or Artificial Intelligence minors are excluded because of substantial curricular overlap. A minimum 2.0 average GPA in the required courses is needed to complete the certificate.

The Committee recognizes that the revised state-support structure aligns the proposal with the updated academic certificate policy while preserving its original purpose. Given the completed earlier consultations, the limited scope of the revisions, and the use of existing courses, the expedited review process is appropriate.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Academic Programs Committee recommends approval of the new state-supported, 12-unit Certificate in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence.