



UNIVERSITY
OF
CALIFORNIA

Ahmet Palazoglu
Chair, Assembly of the
Academic Senate
Faculty Representative,
UC Board of Regents

Academic Senate

Office of the President
1111 Franklin Street
Oakland, CA 94607

senate.universityofcalifornia.edu

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June 24, 2026

Katherine S. Newman
Provost and Executive Vice President
University of California

Re: Approval of UCB Master of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning
(MAIML)

Dear Provost Newman:

In accordance with the Universitywide Review Processes for Academic Programs, Units, and Research Units (the “Compendium”), and on the recommendation of the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs ([CCGA](#)), the Academic Council has approved the UC Berkeley division’s proposal to establish a self-supporting Master of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (MAIML).

Because this is a new degree title, and the Assembly of the Academic Senate is not meeting within 30 days of CCGA’s approval, Council must approve the program per [Senate Bylaw 125.B.7](#).

I am enclosing CCGA’s report on its review of the new program, and respectfully request that your office complete the process of obtaining the President’s approval.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

Ahmet Palazoglu
Chair, Academic Council

cc: Academic Council
UCB Division Chair Stacey
UCB Senate Division Executive Director Banaria
Director of Academic Planning and Policy Corona
Institutional Research and Academic Planning Analyst Wilson
Senate Executive Director Lin



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COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS

Partho Ghosh, Chair

pghosh@ucsd.edu

June 9, 2026

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Ahmet Palazoglu
Academic Senate Chair

Dear Chair Palazoglu,

At its June 3 meeting, CCGA discussed a proposal for a Master of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning from the Berkeley division. After discussion, the proposal was approved 10-0-0.

The proposed program is designed to train current software engineers and others with undergraduate degrees in computer science, data science, statistics, and related fields in the specialized techniques and knowledge required to become machine learning engineers. As machine learning continues to grow, there is an increasing need for professionals with the skills to develop, maintain, explain, and improve these systems in an ethically responsible manner. The MAIML is designed to provide the highly technical, in-depth education in computing and statistics necessary to prepare students to work on core applications of machine learning. The goal of the program is to allow students to develop technical mastery in the computational and statistical foundations of ML and AI in order to create, improve, understand, and responsibly deploy and apply state-of-the-art machine learning and artificial intelligence systems.

Comments were obtained from three reviewers (one internal to the UC system; two external), as well as from UCPB. UCPB determined the program to represent a net positive effect and recommended approval. All three reviewers viewed the program positively overall, but had the following concerns:

- The lack of a capstone in favor of a comprehensive exam
- Increased clarity regarding potential course waivers depending on prior expertise
- Paucity of research-track faculty in program leadership, and faculty

compensation

- Potential for displacement of state-supported students in these areas

The reviewers provided a thoughtful and detailed response that alleviates these concerns. That response, the Lead Reviewer's report, and the UCPB report are all attached.

As you know, CCGA's approval is the last stop of the Academic Senate side of the systemwide review and approval process except when a new degree title must be approved by the Academic Council. I submit this for your review; please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions regarding the proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Partho Ghosh', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Partho Ghosh
Chair, CCGA

cc: Academic Senate Vice Chair Scott
Academic Senate Executive Director Lin
Academic Senate Assistant Director LaBriola
CCGA Members
Director of Academic Planning and Policy Corona
Institutional Research and Planning Analyst Wilson
UCB Dean of the Graduate Division Bedolla
UCB Senate Executive Director Banaria
UCB Senate Associate Director Quiggle

Summary and Recommendation of
A Proposal for a
Self-Supporting Graduate Professional Degree Program
for the Master of Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning
University of California, Berkeley

Prepared by: Hyle Park
June 3, 2026

The proposed program for a Master of Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning at UC Berkeley is a self-supporting professional degree program intended to help fill the shortage of well-trained professionals required of the burgeoning AI and ML fields that society demands. The goal of the program is to develop technical master in the computational and statistical foundations of ML and AI to ethically and responsibly deploy and apply state-of-the-art ML and AI systems. Berkeley is especially well-poised in this regard, with recognized world-class faculty expertise in the Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences (EECS) and Statistics departments.

The new program will require completion of 25 units of on-campus full-time graduate coursework spanning 1 year (2 semesters). The curriculum calls for 6 required courses spanning foundational subjects that include probability and statistical inference, data science, machine/deep learning, responsible AI, professional development, and independent study in preparation for a comprehensive exam. Students are also required to take 3 elective courses that similarly span subjects related to the computational and statistical foundations and applications of AI and ML, such as computer vision, Bayesian statistics, and causal inference. The program plans to launch in Fall 2027, with a projected enrollment of 69 students within the first few years of the program.

Comments were obtained from three reviewers (one internal to the UC system; two external), as well as from UCPB. UCPB determined the program to represent a net positive effect and recommended approval. All three reviewers viewed the program positively overall, but had the following concerns:

- The lack of a capstone in favor of a comprehensive exam
- Increased clarity regarding potential course waivers depending on prior expertise
- Paucity of research-track faculty in program leadership, and faculty compensation
- Potential for displacement of state-supported students in these areas

The reviewers provided a thoughtful and detailed response that alleviate these concerns. In particular, the proposers explained that while program completion is contingent on a comprehensive exam, their intent is for core courses to involve capstone-type projects that would provide experiential learning opportunities. Second, the program proposers described a clear process by which individual core courses can be waived involving submission of a formal request that is reviewed by the faculty director of student advising, with identification of an additional elective to substitute for the waived course. Third, while the inaugural directors of the program are, as noted by the reviewers, highly-noted teaching professors with a proven track record and the bandwidth for successfully establishing new programs, overall governance and the teaching of many of the electives heavily involves research-track faculty. They also provided some clarification for faculty compensation. Finally the program provided clear explanations for

not only how projected enrollment in this program will not crowd out students from state-supported programs, but are actually essential to the expansion of such classes.

Given the comments from the reviewers and UCPB as well as the responses from the proposers, my recommendation is to approve the program.



Academic Senate

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UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND BUDGET (UCPB)

Robert Brosnan

rjbrosnan@ucdavis.edu

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March 6, 2026

Partho Gosh, Chair, CCGA

RE: UC Berkeley Master of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning
(MAIML) Self-Supporting Graduate Degree Program Proposal

Dear Partho,

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UCPB discussed the UC Berkeley proposed graduate program at its March committee meeting. Committee members agreed that it is a promising addition to the professional degree program offerings at the university, and the subject is currently in great demand. The program has gone through more than one review on the campus, with proposers responding with changes to reviewer's concerns.

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The program is offered in the College of Computing Data Science and Society in concert with the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and the Department of Statistics. The executive committee for the program will be made up of faculty from the departments, and there will be a faculty director, head graduate advisor, plus staff such as executive director, a director of admissions, and other staff. Faculty will not be compensated outside of their regular salaries.

The curriculum balances theory and practice and appears rigorous. Committee members were pleased that at least one unit of Case Studies and Responsible AI, and an elective ethics course is offered.

The program is relatively expensive, compared to others at Stanford and Duke. Prospective students have indicated that they expect it to be valuable enough to pay for, but UCPB noted the disparity. The program plans initial enrollment of 60, moving to a steady state of 80 students by

year five. An initial deficit of almost \$700,000 will give way to net revenue of roughly \$1,500,000 in year two, and \$1,600,000 by year three. An anonymous donor has pledged up to \$5M in seed funding. The proposed indirect cost rate (IDC) is 15 percent, topping out at \$803,400 by year three. Market growth in AI is quite robust, and the program has found that industry partners are very interested in advanced AI training.

The program will rely on existing courses from the two participating departments with the option to offer additional sections and hire additional staff, if needed. The program will provide \$425 per student per unit to these departments to cover all instructional costs. In addition, departments and programs will share in the surplus revenue generated by MAIML, which in turn, will bring their effective return to approximately \$1,000 per SCH. A portion of this revenue will be used to pay for TAs, which will allow programs to expand their offerings for undergraduates beyond current TA funding. Between modest program needs and projected revenues, the program should cover all indirect costs. In addition, the SCH revenue provides direct financial mechanism for course expansion, both for the graduate program and expanding course section offerings for impacted undergraduate courses. Oversight measures have been instituted. The Faculty Director will have oversight of the courses being offered and will be responsible for working with faculty to ensure seats are available. The Executive Director will approve all course enrollments to ensure that state funding is not inadvertently utilized for non-state-supported students and that all seats are paid for.

Monies are earmarked for marketing, with special efforts made towards encouraging a widely diverse range of students.

The program commits to allocating **15% of program fees** towards financial aid. Once sustainable, this is expected to generate over \$1 million annually in financial aid, primarily for need-based scholarships. This is a crucial component for promoting diversity and accessibility.

Committee members agreed that this is a well-planned program. They pointed out the following specific areas of concern that the third year review ought to capture:

1. **Workload and Staffing:** While the proposal states existing faculty will contribute by adding sections to existing courses and being compensated, and new staff will be hired, concerns about faculty and staff workload were initially raised. The long-term effectiveness of the proposed staffing model and compensation for faculty teaching overload should be continuously monitored.
2. **Course Overlap Management:** Although efforts have been made to differentiate, the fast-evolving nature of AI/ML and the existence of many

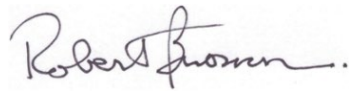
related programs on campus (e.g., MEng, MIDS, MAnalytics) necessitate ongoing vigilance and clear mechanisms for resolving potential curricular overlap or competition for students.

3. **Space and Resources:** The program will primarily use existing facilities in The Gateway. While no additional facilities are deemed necessary initially, the proposal mentions evaluating the need for exclusively reserved student space during the third-year review, which indicates this could become a future consideration or challenge as the program scales.

4. **Market Analysis Limitations:** The market research acknowledges limitations, such as respondents potentially overstating interest or not experiencing real-world factors. This suggests the projected demand, while strong, should be continually validated with actual application data.

UCPB members provided enthusiastic support for the program and recommend that CCGA approve it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert Brosnan", followed by a period.

Robert Brosnan

Chair

cc: UCPB

May 18, 2026

B. Hyle Park
Associate Professor of Bioengineering
UC Riverside

Re: Proposal for a new Master of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (MAIML), a self-supporting graduate professional degree program

Dear Professor Park,

Please find below the proposers' responses to reviewers' questions communicated on May 14, 2026 by Lead Reviewer Prof. Hyle Park (UC Riverside)

Question 1:

Comprehensive Exam vs Capstone: All three reviewers commented on the fact that the proposed program requires a comprehensive exam rather than a capstone. Two of the three noted that the survey information pointed to a strong desire for an experiential component to the program and thought that some form of a capstone might be a more appropriate exit option.

Response 1:

Comprehensive Exam vs. Capstone Summary: MAIML aims to give students both a comprehensive exam and a capstone experience, not as exit options but as parts of the Fall and Spring semester programs. The comprehensive exam will be in the Fall. In the Spring, an experience like that of a capstone will occur in the required Case Studies and Responsible AI class that is expected to draw upon the expertise of multiple Berkeley research-track faculty. In addition, projects are a significant component of several of the program's core and elective courses. Project-based learning, whether singly or in groups of MAIML students, will be a regular aspect of the program.

Details: Survey data indicate a strong student preference for an accelerated, 9-month program. MAIML's program structure attempts to balance rigorous coursework, projects and presentations, as well as post-program career preparation, in just two semesters.

We recognize that a comprehensive exam or a capstone experience can be alternative ways to complete a Master's program. However, for MAIML we do not see them only as alternatives to each other or as exit options. Instead, we would like students to have both experiences because both are valuable in different ways.

MAIML students are expected to have diverse academic backgrounds. Not all will take the same core courses. Some may receive waivers for prior completion of an equivalent to a core course (see the response to Question 2 below). The Fall comprehensive exam will give all students an opportunity to demonstrate their grasp of the foundations and enter the Spring semester well prepared for their elective courses.

The comprehensive exam preparation course will give students an opportunity in the Fall semester to bond with all fellow MAIML students including those with whom they do not share any core courses. Preparation for the exam might be unlike preparation for typical exams that students will have taken in the past. It will require synthesis to address questions of the following style: “Maximum likelihood was covered in all three core areas. Compare and contrast what you learned about it in the three areas.” In preparing for the exam, students will collectively develop a mature perspective on core topics, in addition to the standard calculation-based mastery.

The Case Studies and Responsible AI course, tentatively numbered Data 298, will be a weekly Spring seminar by Berkeley faculty and visitors invited by the instructor for an audience of MAIML students only. The students’ responsibility will be group presentations on a seminar topic of their choice, preferably including some aspects not covered in the seminar. They will have to look beyond computation since most seminars will include ethical, legal, and societal aspects of AI. We expect this to be an interactive and rewarding experience for students, akin to a capstone.

Due to the explosion of interest in this area in the year since MAIML was first proposed to CDSS faculty, several faculty have expressed interest in serving as the instructor of this course or giving a seminar in it. We anticipate that the course might develop into one that more closely resembles a traditional capstone experience. We are open to introducing a formal capstone component in the future based on ongoing student and faculty feedback.

Graduate courses at Berkeley commonly include a project component as a primary method of assessment. MAIML’s core curriculum is designed to include organic project work and hands-on learning. Students will do projects or give presentations in all their core courses and commonly in the electives as well. Key examples from the core coursework include:

- Data 200¹, “Principles and Techniques of Data Science”: Students engage in collaborative graduate group projects throughout the course, gaining experience in open-ended data science analysis and general research methodologies.
- CS 289A, “Introduction to Machine Learning”: This course emphasizes technical depth in machine learning, allowing students to read and expand upon academic papers, investigate complex datasets, or apply advanced techniques to new domains. The course deliverables are designed around 5 major projects.² In addition to the existing 5 projects throughout the semester, graduate students are required to complete a

¹ [DATA 200 Graduate Project](#)

² [CS 289A Course Website](#)

graduate project in a relevant machine learning area.³ The result is a high-quality portfolio piece that students can leverage during interviews to demonstrate their technical proficiency to employers.

Question 2:

Clearer articulation of a course waiver policy: With the program designed to attract students from a variety of fields, the reviewers asked if there would be some flexibility for students strong in one area to waive portions of the required curriculum in order to build requisite strength in a different one. At least one reviewer noted that some articulation of a waiver policy might help offset the relatively (in comparison to similar programs elsewhere) high estimated total cost of the program.

Response 2:

Course Waiver Summary: We expect student preparation to be varied, and hence the list of core and elective courses is varied as well. Students who have previously completed a core course may take an additional elective instead. The course waiver and substitution policies will be clearly articulated on the program website and discussed with admitted students.

Details: MAIML students are expected to have diverse academic backgrounds. Some are likely to have spent time in industry or other professions before returning to academia. Each student's course selection will therefore be made in consultation with the Faculty Director of Student Advising. Waiver decisions will be based on the following approach.

- Students should not have to take courses in areas where they already have mastery based on past academic or professional experience.
- To be considered for a waiver and substitution, students must submit a formal request demonstrating mastery of the subject matter.
- The Faculty Director of Student Advising will assess mastery based on application materials, conversations with the student, the length of time elapsed between the start of the program and the earlier acquaintance with the subject matter, and so on.
- Students for whom a core course is waived will substitute it with an additional elective.
- All students must demonstrate mastery of the core subject areas by passing the Comprehensive Exam.

Such decisions are not unusual in graduate programs. In MAIML we have planned for enough Fall electives for students who might get waivers for a Fall core component. We note, however, that the core requirement in Machine Learning can be satisfied by multiple courses that are complementary to each other rather than clones. Students whose prior experience overlaps with one of those courses are likely to benefit from the new perspective in another.

³ [CS 289A Graduate Project](#)

Our experience with other Berkeley Master's programs is that students are eager to maximize their exposure to Berkeley courses and especially to Berkeley faculty. We believe that the opportunity to take a set of courses curated to suit their individual backgrounds and goals will be appealing to applicants.

Question 3:

Faculty: There were two concerns regarding faculty. First, while all the reviewers noted the excellence of the faculty involved, they also noted that there are no research-track faculty in primary positions in the program. Second, they would like greater clarification on how faculty that are going to contribute to this program will be compensated (financial, overall teaching load) with a similar description for administrative workload.

Response 3:

Faculty Leadership Summary: The inaugural Faculty Directors of the program, one of whom will also serve as the Head Graduate Advisor, are Teaching Professors who are highly regarded for their contributions to CDSS undergraduate and Master's programs. Once MAIML achieves stability and its administrative needs become predictable, research faculty may direct the program. The Faculty Directors are part of the program's Executive Committee that includes additional Senate faculty who may be on the research track. Student access to research-track faculty is ensured through the program's courses, the vast majority of which are typically taught by such faculty.

Details: We are mindful of the importance of research-track faculty participating in the leadership and development of Berkeley's graduate programs including MAIML. One of MAIML's proposers is a research-track faculty member.

We are also aware of the skills and commitment required for getting a new graduate program off the ground. The inaugural Faculty Directors, one each from EECS and Statistics, have long track records of developing courses, curricula, and degree programs. They have made significant contributions to our nationally renowned Data Science undergraduate program, the much older CS and Statistics undergraduate programs, and the Statistics PDST Master's program. Their responsibilities have included gathering and coalescing the curricular visions of faculty members on the research as well as teaching tracks. Both have extensive experience as advisors to undergraduate and master's students. We are therefore confident that they are the most qualified candidates to serve as MAIML's inaugural Faculty Directors charged with guiding the program through its critical initial phase. Once the program becomes stable, research-track faculty will have a smoother path to leading its implementation and development.

Research-track faculty are likely to be involved in program governance from its inception. MAIML will be governed by an Executive Committee that includes the Faculty Directors and the following additional members:

- An Academic Senate faculty representative from each participating unit, i.e., EECS, Data Science, and Statistics (who may be a research-track faculty member);
- Dean (or their designated Associated Dean), *ex officio* non-voting (may vote to break ties; may be a research-track faculty member);
- Executive Director, *ex officio* non-voting.

The majority of courses featured in the program are typically taught solely by research-track Senate faculty or co-taught by teaching-track and research-track Senate faculty. This feature of the program is likely to be a big draw for applicants and an inspiration for MAIML students.

Faculty Compensation Summary: The Faculty Directors and Academic Senate faculty representatives on the Executive Committee will each receive an annual stipend. Faculty members teaching courses specifically for MAIML will receive teaching overload payments in compliance with APM-025 and APM-662. For courses that are not specific to the program, the offering departments will receive additional funding on a per student-credit-hour basis.

Details: In recognition of their administrative leadership and programmatic contributions, including program implementation and advising, the Faculty Directors will receive an annual stipend of \$10,000 each. The Academic Senate faculty representatives on the Executive Committee will be compensated for their role in broader program oversight and governance. Overload payments for faculty teaching courses specifically for MAIML will have the following compensation framework.

- 1 unit course: \$15,000
- 2 unit course: \$22,500
- 3 unit course: \$30,000
- 4 unit course: \$37,500

All amounts have been proposed and are pending final APO approval. Berkeley faculty teaching courses specifically for MAIML will only be possible with the consent of their department Chair and CDSS Dean, with the first priority being to protect the quality of the state-supported programs.

Courses that are not specific to MAIML will receive funds based on student credit hours. These can be used to hire additional teaching assistants and graders needed to support MAIML students. Shares of net revenue can be used to support additional state-supported students in these and other CDSS courses.

Question 4:

Enrollment: All three reviewers raised concerns about enrollment. If enrollment in the program is high, there was concern about students in state-supported programs being crowded out of what are likely very popular AI courses and so would like to see some description of possible protections against displacement of such students. On the other side of the enrollment

question, there is little description for what the program will do if enrollment is below the projected break-even point.

Response 4:

Course Enrollment Summary: MAIML students will be added to state-supported courses in numbers that are appropriate for the program and do not reduce capacity for state-supported students. Moreover, the revenue generated by MAIML is expected to help CDSS units increase the number of seats for state-supported students.

Details: Unit Chairs/Directors and the faculty members in charge of the courses to be featured in MAIML have consented to adding MAIML students under the conditions described above. Mutually acceptable numbers of MAIML students in each course were determined by a consultative process.

Currently, enrollment in AI and ML courses within CDSS is restricted primarily by shortages in Temporary Academic Support (TAS) funding. Many faculty members have expressed a strong desire to expand course access but are limited by these budgetary shortfalls. MAIML addresses this challenge by providing a dedicated revenue stream tied directly to these course offerings. This revenue will supplement the TAS provided by the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost's office, enabling the expansion of these critical courses and ultimately increasing access for state-supported students.

Enrollment Target Summary: We are confident in our ability to meet enrollment targets. In the event of lower-than-anticipated enrollment, the program has backup pathways to reach a break-even point for three years. If self-sufficiency is not achieved by Year 3, we will initiate formal discontinuation procedures in accordance with the UC Berkeley Graduate Division guidelines⁴.

Details: MAIML enrollment projections are supported by New Academic Ventures at Berkeley (NAV-B) and the success of comparable STEM programs on campus. In 2025, the Master of Analytics graduated 145 students (approx. \$74,500 in fees), and the Master of Financial Engineering enrolled 84 students (approx. \$87,000 in fees). NAV-B's midpoint projection for MAIML of 69 students is well below these enrollment numbers.

The midpoint projection of 69 students is also well above the threshold for financial stability. During the campus review stage, the UC Berkeley financial planning & analysis team indicated MAIML would be considered self-supporting based on in-year net revenue surpluses with as few as 25 enrollments in steady state. Additionally, an anonymous donor has pledged up to \$5M to develop and launch the program upon final approval by UCOP. Any unanticipated costs due to initial low enrollment will therefore be covered without the use of state dollars.

Should the program fail to become fully self-supporting within three years, we will strictly adhere to the Self-Supporting Graduate Professional Degree Programs (SSGPDP) Policy⁵ as described in the summary above. As part of this commitment, the proposal includes a comprehensive cost

⁴ [UC Berkeley Graduate Division: Discontinuing a Degree Program](#)

⁵ [Self-Supporting Graduate Professional Degree Programs \(SSGPDP\) Policy](#)

analysis and fiscal phase-in plan. That said, we reiterate our belief that program enrollment is unlikely to be lower than projected.

Sincerely,

Ani Adhikari
Teaching Professor, Statistics, Lead Proposer

Cc: Joshua Hug, Associate Teaching Professor, EECS, Proposer
John DeNero, Faculty Director, Data Science Undergraduate Studies, Proposer
Jennifer Chayes, Dean, College of Computing, Data Science, and Society, Proposer
Adityanand Guntuboyina, Professor, Statistics, Proposer
Sandrine Dudoit, Executive Associate Dean, College of Computing, Data Science, and Society
Narges Norouzi, Associate Dean, College of Computing, Data Science, and Society
Jacob Gallice, Executive Director of Educational Programs & New Initiatives, CDSS