MADISON AREA | TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Applications open
January 2027

New degree, approved by the Wisconsin Technical College System. First classes start Fall 2027.

Associate Degree in Applied AI

Questions applicants ask

PUT AI TO WORK, STARTING FALL 2027.

A 61-credit, four-semester degree for people who want to use AI as skilled practitioners: building products, automating workflows, creating content, analyzing data and launching ventures.

Credits **61**	Full-time length **4 semesters**	First start **Fall 2027**	Admission **Open, no seat limit**
Format **In person and online**	Schedule **Day and evening**	Applications open **January 2027, rolling**	AI tools **Included in course fees**

For everyone

What is this degree?

An associate degree of 61 credits over four semesters full-time. It has 13 Applied AI courses, 15 credits of general education (including Math of Finance), a 1-credit Job Search Prep course and 6 credits of electives. You learn to use AI tools as a skilled practitioner: building products, automating workflows, creating content, analyzing data and launching ventures.

How is it different from Madison College's other AI degrees?

It is not the AI Data Specialist degree or the GenAI Front-End Developer degree; those are separate programs. Applied AI is for people who want to put AI to work across many kinds of jobs and businesses, not to become computer scientists.

Do I need programming experience?

No. The first-semester Applied AI courses (**10-156-110** AI Prompt Engineering, **10-156-107** Computing Essentials for AI Users and **10-156-124** Data Literacy) have no prerequisites. You learn Python in your third semester (**10-152-211** Python for Developers).

When can I start?

In fall or spring. The first start is Fall 2027, and the first spring start is Spring 2028. Applications open in January 2027 and are accepted on a rolling basis for Fall 2027. For a spring start, applications follow the college's usual timing; the Enrollment Center can give you the dates.

Is there a seat limit or a selective admission process?

No. Admission is open, through Madison College's standard admission process, with no seat limit.

Are classes in person or online?

A combination of both. Classes are offered online, in the daytime and in the evening.

Are classes offered in summer?

Applied AI courses run in fall and spring only, with no summer sections. Once each course has run for the first time, it is offered every fall and spring semester. The five general education courses in the degree (such as Written Communication and Math of Finance) also run in summer, so you can take some of them in summer to lighten a fall or spring term or to finish sooner. Your advisor can help you plan this.

Questions continue on the back

What will it cost, and do I need to buy AI tools?

For tuition and financial aid, contact the Enrollment Center at 608.246.6210. AI tools and API access are included in your course fees, including the prepaid API key used in **10-156-178** AI Agents and Autonomous Workflows. You don't need to buy separate AI subscriptions.

What computer do I need?

Any modern laptop. There is no special specification.

Is there an internship?

No internship is required. You do real-world work in the capstone, **10-156-186** AI Solutions Studio, where you take a real problem from discovery and prototyping to a launched solution. **10-107-175** Job Search Prep helps you get ready for the job market.

What jobs does it lead to?

The program names these careers: AI Solutions Consultant, Workflow Automation Specialist, AI Content Producer, No-Code Product Builder, AI-Augmented Data Analyst, AI Operations Lead, AI Indie Founder, and AI Trainer & Educator. Graduates work in startups, agencies, e-commerce, professional services, nonprofits, education, healthcare operations and government technology offices.

If you're coming from high school

Will my dual-credit courses count?

Madison College's standard rules apply to dual credit earned in high school. Some general education courses in this degree, such as Written Communication, may already be on your record. Bring your transcripts to Advising & Registration, and your advisor will check what counts.

Can I transfer to a four-year university later?

Tell your academic advisor in your first semester. Math of Finance is the only math course in this degree, and technical bachelor's degrees, such as a BS in AI, usually expect college algebra or higher math. Plan College Algebra with your advisor and take it by the end of your third semester.

If you're working or studying part-time

Can I study part-time?

Yes, you can plan a part-time course load with your advisor. The courses build on each other, so ask your academic advisor to map out your course order. Part-time students can start in fall or spring.

How long will it take part-time?

It depends on how many credits you take each semester. Your academic advisor will plan it with you. Because courses run every fall and spring, if you have to drop or retake a course you can usually pick it up the next semester.

What happens if I need to stop for a semester?

Talk to your advisor before you drop a class. Because the courses build on each other, a gap can delay your graduation, but courses run every fall and spring, so you can usually pick up where you left off.

If you already have a degree or college credits

Will my earlier credits count?

Madison College's standard rules apply to credit transferred from other colleges and to credit for prior learning. If you already have general education credit, you may need fewer courses. Bring your transcripts to Advising & Registration.

If you want to start a business

Does this degree help me build my own product or business?

The program describes itself as "a launchpad for the AI-powered solo founder." You build a portfolio across the program and finish the capstone, **10-156-186** AI Solutions Studio, with a product you launched. Many graduates build their own consulting or product businesses.

Who to contact

Enrollment Center

Applying, deadlines, tuition and financial aid

608.246.6210

Your academic advisor

Registration, course plan, credit transfer and part-time plans

Advising & Registration

Bryan Witkowski

Applied AI Program Director: what the program is like, careers and tools

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Program website: appliedai.madisoncollege.dev