Artificial Intelligence Club Week 4 Slides

October 22, 2025

Applying to grad programs

- Note: Applying to MS versus PhD programs comes with a different process at many schools. Also, **most deadlines** are Dec 1st — 15th.
- For **some** schools, PhD and MS share a **common** application portal, and if you aren't admitted (PhD), you will be considered for an MS
  - Other schools have separate application processes (for MS and PhD)
- "Applying to Ph.D. Programs in Computer Science" (2014)
  - https://www.cs.cmu.edu/~harchol/gradschooltalk.pdf
  - This is a popular PDF (from 2014) by a CMU Prof in CS that provides advice on the application process
- "Demystifying PhD Admissions in Computer Science" (2025)
  - https://roars.dev/phd-cs-us/demystify.pdf
  - This PDF is more up-to-date (2025)

Why Grad School

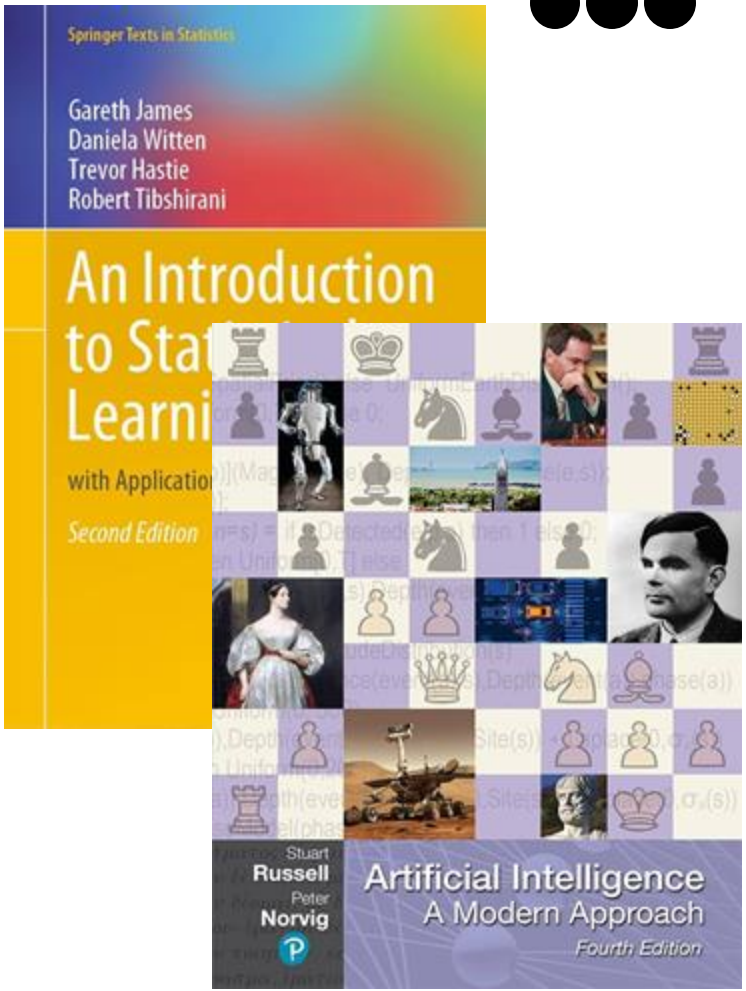
- “Almost all leading industry internships in AI/ML are graduate student positions.” — Dr. Stefan Lee (discord)
- More opportunities to work with professors on research
- Allows you to learn about certain AI topics of your choice in more depth

- 64% of AI professionals have an MS (more prevalent than PhD). 91% of AI professionals hold a graduate degree (MS or PhD) [1].
- 2010: 44.4% of employed AI PhD graduates worked in the industry
- 2019: 65.7% of employed AI PhD graduates went in the industry [2]
- Later, in 2023, ~70% of AI-relevant PhDs versus 20% back in 2003 [3].

Some “recommended reading”

- An Introduction to Statistical Learning (Python and R)
  - https://www.statlearning.com/
- Artificial Intelligence: A Modern Approach
  - https://aima.cs.berkeley.edu/
- Other book recommendations:

1) Understanding Deep Learning
2) "Probabilistic Machine Learning" - a book series by Kevin Murphy



How Long?

- 45 Number of Credits
- Full Time Student
  - 9 or more Credits
  - ~ 3 classes
  - Finish in about 2 Years
- Part Time Student
  - 8 or less Credits
  - 1 -2 classes
  - Finish in about 3 -4 years

Clock icons created by Freepik - Flaticon

Work...? Class...?

- 40 Hours of Work
  - 1 - 2 classes / term
  - Taking Classes?
    - Ecampus
    - Hybrid (Portland Hybrid) (COB)
- 20 - 25 Hours of Work
  - 2 - 3 classes / term
    - Taking Classes?
      - Full Time Students
      - Ecampus

Library icons created by Freepik - Flaticon

Tuition Benefits?

- Help Pay Your Tuition
  - Employment Benefits
    - OSU Staff Fee Privileges
  - Scholarships
- However…
  - Be Aware of the Tax!

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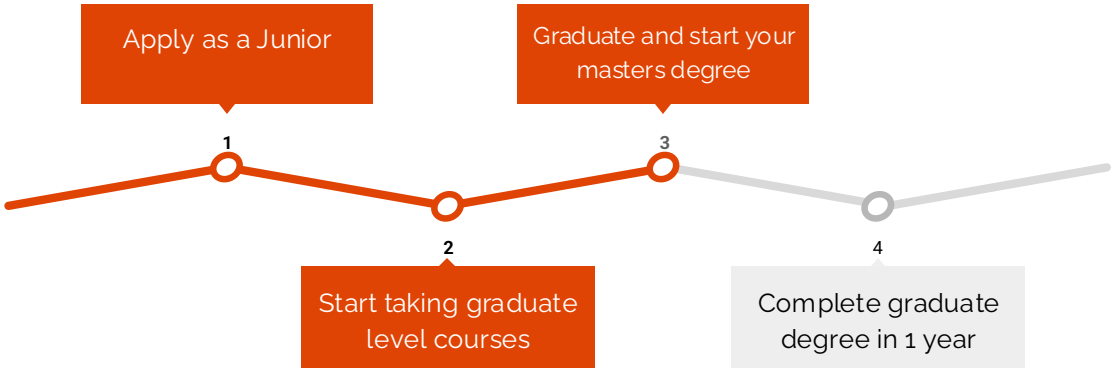
MEng vs MS

- MEng
  - Course focused. Complete the credits and a Portfolio Completion (1 credit) course.
  - Similar to MS, but you are barred from GTA or GRA positions.
- MS
  - AI: Must take additional courses, such as Algorithms (CS 514 or 515) and PHL 546 (Ethical/Social Issues in AI).
    - CS is not required to take these. More AI classes are required for the AI major.
  - Thesis option: Find a professor in the CS department who is willing to be your advisor. If applying to PhD programs, a thesis shows that you can do novel work. Graduating will be more difficult since you may take more time.
  - Capstone: Similar to the undergraduate capstone (3 terms of classes under Alan Fern where you work with your project partners then write a report and present it to graduate).

Accelerated Masters Platform

- Overview
  - Take graduate courses that count toward your undergraduate and graduate degree
  - Transfer up to 22 credits to your graduate degree
  - Pay undergraduate tuition rates for graduate courses
- Degrees Offered
  - MEng CS or AI (45 credits to complete)
  - M.S. CS or AI (45 credits + thesis or capstone)



Application Process (AMP)

- Requirements
  - Complete 105 credits
  - 3.25+ GPA
  - Approval from an EECS faculty member (M.S. only)
- How to Apply
  - Apply fall, winter, or spring
  - Schedule meeting with EECS graduate advisor to receive application code
- Application contents
  - Transcript
  - 500 word essay
  - 2 Letters of Recommendation

Joy King, EECS Graduate Advisor

Some university rankings

- Note: Rankings are debated / based on different metrics (like faculty h-index scores, research output, student life, etc.) and not agreed upon.
- US News Rankings
  - https://www.usnews.com/best-graduate-schools/top-science-schools/artificial-intelligence-rankings
- CSRankings.org
  - https://csrankings.org/#/index?all&us

- Note: If you will have an advisor (MS or PhD), being a “good fit” with this advisor (getting along well) will be important.

Some university rankings

- CSRankings.org

#	Institution	Count	Faculty
1	Carnegie Mellon University	20.7	178
2	Univ. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	14.8	114
3	Univ. of California - San Diego	14.7	124
4	Georgia Institute of Technology	13.9	153
5	University of Michigan	11.5	108
6	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	11.4	105
6	Univ. of California - Berkeley	11.4	97
8	Cornell University	11.3	107
9	University of Washington	10.8	80
10	University of Maryland - College Park	10.6	96
11	Stanford University	10.0	63
12	Northeastern University	9.4	104
13	Purdue University	8.1	74
14	New York University	7.6	91
14	University of Texas at Austin	7.6	48
14	University of Wisconsin - Madison	7.6	84
17	University of Pennsylvania	7.2	71

- US News Rankings