NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL (NISP) FOR A NEW PROGRAM OF INSTRUCTION

1. **Institution:** Auburn University at Montgomery

2. **Date of NISP Submission:** August 31, 2023

3. **Contact Person and Title:** Dr. Matthew Ragland, Associate Provost
   - **Telephone:** 334-244-3138
   - **E-mail:** mragland@aum.edu

4. **Program Identification:** Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence
   - **Award Level:** Graduate Level (Master’s)
   - **Title:** Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence
   - **Degree nomenclature (e.g., MBA, BS):** M.S.
   - **6-digit CIP:** 11.0102

5. **Program Administration and Implementation:**
   - **Name of College/ School:** AUM College of Business
   - **Name of Dean:** Dr. Ross Dickens
   - **Name of Department:** Information Systems
   - **Name of Chairperson:** Dr. James Locke

   **Proposed program implementation date:** Fall 2024
   **Anticipated ACHE meeting to vote on proposal:** December 2023
   **Anticipated date of approval from institutional governing board:** 8/25/24
   **Other considerations for timing and approval (e.g., upcoming SACSCOC review):** SACSCOC Prospectus due 1/1/24 for approval by 7/1/24
6. Program Design:

Brief Description of Program and Objectives:

Auburn University at Montgomery (AUM) proposes a Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence (MSAI).

This additional graduate degree program will support the missions of Auburn University at Montgomery and the College of Business. It is designed to provide graduate students with the skills they need to understand the expanding field of artificial intelligence (AI), especially in the context of business management. Students will acquire a valuable knowledge of machine learning, based on the values, ethics and associated skills required to use artificial intelligence. Additionally, it will prepare students to work with diverse data sets with an emphasis on recognizing bias, visualization of how the data and model should be designed and the ethical implications of such processes or results. Students will be able to assess needs and implement AI strategies for institutions, organizations and businesses that should improve efficiencies therein.

After graduation, students can offer employers character-based knowledge of AI practices and reliability in various business decisions and disciplines. This MSAI program will further enhance the STEM initiatives underway at AUM. The proposed program will not focus on creating AI or on the coding behind AI, but rather on the application of AI to business. AUM sees this program as unique within the state because of it residing within the College of Business. Those who make the decisions about how, when, where, and to what degree to apply AI to a problem or opportunity will fall to the leaders and decision makers in organizations. Leadership and management skills and theory are taught in colleges of business. Thus, leaders for the future must have a thorough grounding in the practical use, understand the theory, and develop the ethical acumen necessary for successful, reliable, and appropriate uses of the technologies. Further, AUM will ultimately build capacity for AI certificates in other graduate programs. This MSAI program provides the foundation from which such efforts must flow.

The proposed MSAI will help meet the growing demand for AI workers in the state and beyond. The field is growing exponentially and preparing students for the use of AI, especially in business decisions, will require professionals who can not only visualize the data but also recognize whether the results of a model are appropriate or unreliable. The MSAI will provide students with a degree that matches their own career goals in a globally competitive marketplace and positions the university and college to become more visible and attract more students. In addition, this proposed program is critical for fulfilling employer demand for employees with skills in this area. It will also allow AUM undergraduate students to obtain a MSAI without the need to attend another university. AUM hopes to attract the many state employees in the capital city who wish to pursue graduate education in machine learning.

Proposed delivery format (100% in-person, 100% online, hybrid, multiple formats):

If hybrid, what % of program will be delivered online?

If multiple formats, which ones?

The program will be primarily face-to-face with some courses taught online.
Total Credit Hours required to complete the program (if range, enter minimum):

30

Please identify any specialized accreditation agency that may apply to this program and explain why your institution does or does not intend to seek specialized accreditation.

The program will be housed within the AUM College of Business, which has all of its programs accredited by AACSB and thus the proposed program will fall under AACSB accreditation.

Will the curriculum require work-based or experiential learning (internship, practicum, etc.)? If yes, please explain. Definitions and examples of different types of work-based learning are available at https://www.alapprentice.org/.

No

Will the program be designed to meet educational requirements licensure and/or certification required for entry-level employment? If yes, please list license and/or certification(s).

No

7. Employment Occupational Alignment

Using the federal Standard Occupational Code (SOC) System, please indicate the top three occupational codes related to post-graduation employment from the program. A full list of SOCs can be found at https://www.onetcodeconnector.org/find/family/title#17. A list of Alabama’s “In-Demand Occupations” is available at https://ache.edu/Instruction.aspx

SOC 1 (required) 15-2051.00 Data Scientists
SOC 2 (optional) 13-2031.00 Budget Analysts
SOC 3 (optional) 13-2011.00 Accountants and Auditors

8. Relationship to other programs within the institution:

Is the proposed program associated with any existing offerings, including options within current degree programs? If yes, please explain. If this is a graduate program, please list any existing undergraduate programs which are directly or indirectly related. If this is a doctoral program, also list related master's
programs.

The proposed program is related to the existing Master of Science in Management Information Systems (M.S.M.I.S.) in that it will utilize two existing courses that are currently being taught as electives for the M.S.M.I.S. program. These courses, which have AI elements and machine learning to them, have been extremely popular with our students (max capacity met).

The proposed program is also related to our B.S.B.A. in Information Systems, which has an AI-related class as an elective. Students completing the B.S.B.A. in Information Systems may wish to enroll in the proposed M.SAI. Note, however, the program plans to accept students with any undergraduate degree.

Will this program replace any existing programs or specializations, options, or concentrations within existing programs? If yes, please explain.
No.

9. Relationship to programs at other Alabama public institutions:
List programs at the same degree level that use the same or similar CIP codes. If no similar programs exist within Alabama, please list similar programs offered within the 16 SREB states.
Currently, there are no universities utilizing the CIP code 11.0102 and AUM is not aware of any program in the state that focuses entirely on Artificial Intelligence.

If the proposed program duplicates, closely resembles, or is similar to any other offerings in the state, please provide justification for any potential duplication.

The program is not duplicative, nor does it resemble any other program in the state.

If you plan to explore program collaboration with other institutions, please explain.
N/A

10. Projected program demand
What is the primary methodology you will use to determine the level of student demand for this program? (Survey of current or former students, enrollments in
existing programs or courses)

There is overwhelming demand for our current course offerings in AI and all courses have been at maximum capacity since being offered. Further, Dr. Locke, Department Head of Information Systems, has received several inquiries from local businesses/firms that would like for their employees to take our AI coursework to aid them in their current roles. We feel this is sufficient proof of demand to offer the program.

What is the primary methodology you will use to determine state need for this program? (Labor market information, expert market analysis, state or regional economic development strategy)

See response above. Letters of support from local business/firms will be included with the proposal.
PROPOSAL FOR A NEW DEGREE PROGRAM (Part 1: Proposal)

1. Date of Proposal Submission: September 1, 2023

   Full program name and level: Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence

   Degree nomenclature (e.g., MBA, BS): Master of Science

   CIP Code: 11.0102

2. Learning Outcomes:

   Succinctly list at least four (4) but no more than seven (7) of the most prominent student learning outcomes (SLO) of the program.

   Students graduating from the proposed Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence will be able to do the following:

   1. Plan to align Artificial Intelligence (AI) deployment with an organization’s strategies. (SLO mapped to INFO 6510)

   2. Identify data useful for AI deployment. (SLO mapped to INFO 5000, 5010, 6500, and 6530)

   3. Define the benefits and costs of AI platform options appropriate for deployment goals. (SLO mapped to INFO 5020)

   4. Employ selection criteria to choose a model appropriate for AI deployment goals and available data. (SLO mapped to INFO 5000, 5010, 6500, and 6530)

   5. Test and refine an appropriate model to achieve a deployment goal. (SLO mapped to INFO 5000, 5010, 6500, and 6530)

   6. Demonstrate skills to manage dynamic, high-risk environments. (SLO mapped to INFO 6510)

   7. Explain the ethical implications of AI, including privacy, bias, and transparency. (SLO mapped to INFO 6450 and 6510)

3. Employment Outcomes and Program Demand

   Please describe how the proposed program prepares graduates to seek employment in the occupations (SOC codes) identified within the NISP. Note: you may also indicate any updates to those codes here.
The proposed Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence (MSAI) represents what might be characterized in a legal brief as a case of first impression with a novel, yet global application for graduates of the program seeking employment. Likely, every industry, occupation or profession will be using artificial intelligence in some form and capacity. Because of the global application of machine learning, we have housed this program deliberately within the College of Business rather than an engineering or computer science curriculum. Graduates of the program will be adept at using AI as a business tool to build predictive models and analyze different sets of data to see tendencies within the data in a matter of seconds, when traditional methods may never have detected or predicted the outcomes. The industry of artificial intelligence is really in its infancy and will only grow in applications and disciplines over time. It is reasonable to assume that the growth and impact of AI will resemble that of the Internet with corresponding effects on existing and unknown methods and systems of business management. A review of SOC codes only offers a broad general application in many areas. Some of these occupations include:

SOC 13-2011.00 Accountants and Auditors – Graduates of the MSAI will be prepared to use AI models to examine, analyze, and interpret accounting records to prepare financial statements, give advice or audit and evaluate statements prepared by others. They can install or advise on AI systems of recording costs or other budgetary data for preparation of predictive financial models. MSAI graduates can create models to collect and analyze data to detect deficient controls, duplicated effort, extravagance, fraud or non-compliance with laws, regulations, and management policies.

SOC 13-2023.00 Appraisers and Assessors of Real Estate – MSAI graduates will be prepared to use AI to analyze trends in sales prices, construction costs and rents, to assess property values or determine the accuracy of assessments. AI models can collect and analyze relevant data to identify real estate market trends.

SOC 13-2031.00 Budget Analysts – MSAI graduates will use AI to examine budget estimates for completeness, accuracy, and conformance with procedures and regulations. They will use AI to analyze budgeting and accounting reports to determine the financial resources required to implement a program under varying scenarios. Models may also lead to fraud detection.

SOC 15-1211.01 – Health Informatics Specialist – MSAI graduates will apply knowledge of nursing and informatics to assist in the design, development, and ongoing modification of computerized health care systems using AI. The models can be used to educate staff and assist in problem solving. They will design, develop, select, test, implement and evaluate new or modified informatics solutions, data structures and decision-support mechanisms to support patients, health care professionals and their information management. Human-computer and human-technology interactions within health care contexts will be collected to improve nursing practice, administration and conduct research in collaboration with other health informatics specialist.
SOC 15-2051.00 – *Data Scientist* – MSAI graduates will be trained to develop and implement a set of techniques or analytics applications to transform raw data into meaningful information using data-oriented programming languages and visualization software. They can apply data mining, data modeling, natural language processing, and machine learning to extract and analyze information from large structured and unstructured datasets. MSAI graduates will be able to visualize, interpret and report data findings in various strategic models across many differing organizations and institutions.

*Consistent with earlier statements, in almost every occupation listed in the SOC details, a role for AI and those who are able to use it effectively, either exists presently or will be soon created. An argument can be made that those occupations who fail to embrace the enhancements of AI will be left behind as society adapts to AI as was the case with the Internet.*

Please explain whether further education/ training is required for graduates of the proposed program to gain entry-level employment in the occupations you have selected.

It is not anticipated that any further education or training will be required for MSAI graduates to find meaningful employment in the above occupations or many others.

**Briefly describe how the program fulfills a specific industry or employment need for the State of Alabama. As appropriate, you should discuss alignment with Alabama’s Statewide or Regional Lists of In-Demand Occupations (available at [https://ache.edu/Instruction.aspx](https://ache.edu/Instruction.aspx) under “Policy/Guidance”) or with emerging industries as identified by Alabama’s Innovation Commission or the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama (EDPA).**

As stated above, the field of Artificial Intelligence or machine learning (AI) is so new that some industries have yet to fully define specific positions for AI. Many recognize the real need for AI in order to remain efficient, competitive and viable in many facets of business. Any occupation wherein data is collected or available, and predictive modeling or the review of past performance provides trends or likely outcomes, will become reliant on AI as a critical tool for managers in their decision processes. We have anchored this MSAI degree program within the AUM College of Business in recognition that non-computer science experts (business managers) will be using versions of AI in many varied business applications.

A review of the Alabama Statewide List of In-Demand Occupations provides numerous opportunities for graduates of the AUM, MSAI program. Twenty occupations were clearly those wherein AI is, or will become a major factor in the performance of the corresponding duties. A sample listing of occupations in Alabama from the ACCCP 2022-2023 list is provided below:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOC Code -- Job Title</th>
<th>Avg. Annual Openings</th>
<th>Median Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11-1021 General &amp; Operations Managers</td>
<td>3,020</td>
<td>$101,174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-1111 Management Analysts</td>
<td>615</td>
<td>$90,377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-3021 Computer &amp; Information Sys. Managers</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>$123,215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-3031 Financial Managers</td>
<td>555</td>
<td>$116,927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-3121 Human Resource Managers</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>$101,862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-2011 Accountants &amp; Auditors</td>
<td>2,025</td>
<td>$64,035</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-9111 Medical &amp; Health Services Managers</td>
<td>830</td>
<td>$82,608</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-1212 Information Security Analysts</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>$81,744</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Alabama Department of Labor’s website in August 2023 shows 326 jobs currently available in the state referring to AI in the job description with a salary range starting from $79,000 to $129,000.

A recent news story published by CNBC offers that U.S. companies are on a hiring spree for AI related jobs and they have an average pay of $146,000, citing the global job search platform Adzuna. According to Adzuna’s database, there are roughly 169,045 jobs in the U.S. calling for AI skills with almost 3600 calling for generative AI work in particular. Tax managers and accountants with AI skills are in high demand. The story goes on to provide that a recent survey of LinkedIn’s top companies found nearly 70% say AI is already helping them to be faster and smarter. Another 32% of the survey participants say they expect to see larger gains from using AI in the coming years, while companies like Wells Fargo and Kaiser Permanente are implementing it across their workflows. A graduate degree specifically in AI will only enhance these employment opportunities for our students.

A search in August 2023 of the USA Jobs website for federal government employment opportunities with the key search term “artificial intelligence” within the state of Alabama produces 10 immediate openings with agencies like the Internal Revenue Service and the Department of Veterans’ Affairs. The starting full-time salaries are near the $100,000 mark or above. Nationwide there are 52 current openings on USA Jobs that mention artificial intelligence with a much broader range of starting salaries. Some of these AI related positions start above the $150,000 mark within the Department of Defense.

References

https://alabamaworks.alabama.gov/vosnet/jobbanks/joblist.aspx?enc=91AiPJzms5asTnW2vfcWh8Nbg9n04fVG1CBQKwGz3qzfrUXRde4H9ZPjMmqQ6mNPvX7HOHAPWUCJpgoTpiTGJPiUuorm+ga+i5QyMtt/UeLx+o5MCk5RklQLyPoxZSQW8CNjF5Zsi0vZtlK8UT0huK71yAHFEMsq0ZaLGLf05gmC1Lb3+HkkUF+m7UyHahPq6bhEdIBKCNb6rJShBblf+gC7RU5wLpAEh6m36UW6Y=

https://www.usajobs.gov/Search/Results?k=Artificial%20Intelligence%20
Please describe how you will determine whether graduates are successful in obtaining relevant employment or pursuing further study.

It is anticipated that many of the students in the MSAI cohorts will already be working when they are admitted to the program. The students may be motivated because of career opportunities within their current employers’ structure or a desire to change career paths. We will be able to continue contact with those already working when they graduate, but we also use a “Next Steps” survey where we ask our College of Business graduates to share and “brag” about what is next in their professional paths.

One component of this degree program will allow students to pursue an internship with companies anticipating or needing this AI knowledge base in their institution or organization. We anticipated that these internship opportunities will evolve into permanent job opportunities for the MSAI students. We will know where they are working and provide direct follow-up with them, possibly having them as guest speakers in our AI classes through Zoom or personal appearance.

We will send an e-version publication (AI- newsletter) to them following graduation to build a community of AI experts who can share insight with each other and our current students on opportunities and achievements/recognitions for their efforts in AI business applications. One of the main factors in offering this degree in a cohort model is to actually build those community relationships between the students in the cohort, and also our faculty. The vision is to create the relationships that often develop with students in professional programs sharing similar academic challenges.

The AUM College of Business AI Lab will continue to sponsor half-day workshops and AI symposiums to permit our current students to meet and interact with other leaders from our local institutions, state agencies, organizations and businesses who are interested in the applications of AI and opportunities associated therewith. These conferences will also provide an indirect means of our staying in touch with our MSAI graduates and monitoring their careers as they will be invited to attend and present along with faculty.

Because of these efforts from the beginning of a cohort to build a connected community within, whether students pursue the internship or thesis model, we want our students to recognize that we are committed to them and want them to succeed. We anticipate a corresponding relationship between our College and our graduates of the MSAI program.

Briefly describe evidence of student demand for the program, including enrollments in related coursework at your institution if applicable. If a survey of student interest was conducted, please briefly describe the survey instrument, number and percentage of respondents, and summary of results.
In our currently taught courses related to the visualization of data, machine learning, and AI, we have 182 students enrolled across three sections of INFO 5550 Data Mining Methods and Applications. Each section is at or over capacity (60). This has been the case each term since offering the course. We plan to offer additional AI courses starting in the Spring 2024 term and anticipate full course capacities. The specific courses will depend upon the availability of resources and demands in other courses.

The AUM College of Business AI Lab had an AI Open House in June 2023 and a half-day AI Conference in July, 2023, which were attended by over 200 people who are interested in learning more about AI. The audiences participated in break-out sessions on specific topics regarding AI. In every session attendees asked about taking courses related to the practical use of AI.

Several state agencies have contacted the College of Business AI Lab seeking guidance and assistance on using AI to address issues within their agencies and the services they provide to constituents. Each agency involved has expressed the desire to have employees participate in the MSAI program when approved.

4. Specific Rationale (Strengths) for Program

What is the specific rationale for recommending approval of this proposal? List 3-5 strengths of the proposed program.

i. The Artificial Intelligence Lab at the AUM College of Business is the only lab in the state teaching business students the practical use of AI and predictive modeling to enhance business decisions across various business disciplines. Research suggests there may be only one or two other colleges nationally that are even considering AI as a part of their business degree programs. The demand for students with practical knowledge of AI will grow exponentially across all societal activities.

ii. Students will encounter AI in many forms throughout their career. Having a clear understanding of practical AI applications in business, along with the character and ethical norms taught in this MSAI program, will provide graduates with the strategic knowledge to evaluate data and weigh the appropriateness of AI recommendations.

iii. The State of Alabama has prioritized the efficiencies of state government and processes where AI can offer data informed strategies to reduce waste and improve quality of services for taxpayers. Several state agency leaders have asked to have their personnel included in the MSAI cohorts to better understand the ways AI can improve the delivery of their services and efficiencies therein.

iv. The MSAI program in the College of Business will be a leader in the nation for those without technical or computer technology skills to learn about data and
apply AI in reaching practical decisions. Because of the human friendly interfaces now a part of AI, students from almost any discipline can learn about the use of AI, and moreover how AI can lead to multifaceted research for solutions.

v. The administration at AUM have invested heavily in the hardware necessary to teach machine learning to students with equipment of sufficient capacity to also conduct ongoing research. Undergraduate students and graduate students have already used the AI Lab to conduct meaningful research on business related topics. Samples include predicting food yields for crops in India and what best to plant, teaching AI to recognize American Sign Language and identifying and predicting the characteristics of the next Academy Award winning movie soundtrack. The AI Lab has one of the most powerful AI machines in any business college and is sufficient for the needs of the MSAI program and other AI-related activities at AUM.

Please list any external entities that have supplied letters of support attesting to the program’s strengths, and attach letters with the proposal.

See attached letters:

- Mr. Adam Finesilver, President of Finesilver & Associates, LLC
- Mr. Terry Davis, Principal, TGD Consulting, LLC

5. Program Resource Requirements

A. Faculty. Please provide or attach a brief summary of primary and support faculty that includes their qualifications specific to the program proposal. Note: Institutions must maintain and have current and additional primary and support faculty curriculum vitae available upon ACHE request for as long as the program is active, but you do not need to submit CVs with this proposal.

Please provide faculty counts for the proposed program:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Faculty Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Primary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Full-Time</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Part-Time</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Full-Time (to be</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hired)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Part-Time (to be</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hired)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Summary Information on the AUM Faculty teaching in the MSAI program:

Dr. James M. Locke, Department Chair of Information Systems

Dr. Locke earned his Ph.D. from Auburn and has become a recognized expert in machine learning and artificial intelligence. He leads our AI Lab as its director and provides inspiration to students in research and AI. He has an extensive background in business consulting and management.

Dr. Yuan “Lucy” Zhang, Assistant Professor of Information Systems

Dr. Zhang earned her Ph.D. from the University of Florida in 2022. She has multiple intellectual contributions underway based on her dissertation and has presented a paper at one academic conference.

Dr. Jay Claiborne, Assistant Professor of Information Systems

Dr. Claiborne earned his Ph.D. from Auburn University in 2022. Dr. Claiborne has made three paper presentations at academic conferences and previously worked with the MARTA system in Atlanta, Georgia which has made possible cooperation with the AI Lab.

Dr. William “Heath” Landrum, Visiting Assistant Professor of Information Systems

Dr. Landrum earned his Ph.D. from Auburn University in 2014. Since 2014, Dr. Landrum has been involved with various commercial pursuits utilizing technology. He is the main faculty member helping to configure the Nvidia box to allow multiple users.

Dr. David Simmonds, Visiting Assistant Professor of Information Systems

Dr. Simmonds earned his Ph.D. from Old Dominion University in 2016. He has published one sole-authored peer reviewed journal article and four co-authored articles in the past five years.

Dr. Michael R. White, Distinguished Senior Lecturer of Business Law and College of Business Graduate Programs Director

Dr. White earned a joint Master of Business Administration and Doctor of Jurisprudence from Samford University’s Brock School of Business and Cumberland School of Law in 1981. His background is one of a legal practitioner with two co-authored peer reviewed journal articles in the past five years. He has taught at AUM since
1983 and held positions of Alabama Deputy Attorney General and Chief Administrative Law Judge.

Note that AUM has two Visiting Assistant Professors whose salaries are not base budgeted. These faculty were hired with salary savings in anticipation of huge increases in enrollment our M.S. in Management Information Systems. Projections proved to be correct and therefore AUM will base budget these positions and convert the lines to tenure-track Assistant Professor positions. In addition, we will hire one more professor with a background to teach in the proposed MSAI program. Total salary needed will be approximately $386,000 a year.

Note: Annual compensation costs for additional faculty to be hired should be included in the NEW ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM SUMMARY table in Part 3. Salary/benefits for current faculty should not be included.

Briefly describe the qualifications of any new faculty to be hired:

B. Staff. Will the program require dedicated staff?  

☐ Yes  ☒ No

If so, indicate the number or percentage of FTEs.

Note: Annual compensation costs for staff to be hired should be included in the NEW ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM SUMMARY table in Part 3.

C. Equipment. Will any special equipment be needed specifically for this program?

☐ Yes  ☒ No

If yes, please list. Their cost should be included in the NEW ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM SUMMARY table in Part 3.

D. Facilities. Will any new facilities be required specifically for the program?

☐ Yes  ☒ No

If yes, please list. Only new facilities need be listed. Their cost should be included in the NEW ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM SUMMARY table in Part 3.

E. Library. Will additional library resources be required to support the program?

☒ Yes  ☐ No

Please provide a brief description of the current status of the library collections supporting the proposed program.

The AUM Library has subscribed to a specific digital database to support the courses being taught in machine learning and data visualization. This is the Association of
Computing Machinery (ACM) Digital Library. The subscription costs approximately $8,000.00 annually and will offer students in the existing AI courses, and those courses proposed in the MSAI program, with ongoing and current access to resources directly related to the evolving area of artificial intelligence. Because the field is so dynamic, traditional texts are likely outdated by the time they are published. Faculty will use the ACM Digital Library, current developments, case studies and new guidelines or laws to provide students with a strong foundation in machine learning. To teach in this program will require ongoing and updated research by faculty to provide currency in the field. The ACM Digital Library will also provide resources to students in computer science and management of information systems.

If yes, please briefly describe how any deficiencies will be remedied, and include the cost in the NEW ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM SUMMARY table.

F. Assistantships/Fellowships. Will you offer any assistantships specifically for this program?

☐ Yes  ☒ No

If “Yes”, how many assistantships will be offered? ________

The expenses associated with any *new* assistantships should be included in the NEW ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM SUMMARY table in Part 3.

G. Other. Please explain any other costs to be incurred with program implementation, including lab start-up expenses or specialized accreditation costs. Be sure to note these on the NEW ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM SUMMARY table in Part 3.

The leadership and administration at AUM have invested in one of the most powerful AI computers from Nvidia to allow us to teach the initial machine learning courses. The current computer system will provide ample capacity to teach in the cohort model. Just as AI is changing exponentially, so will the equipment facilitating its growth. The exact needs will depend upon the number of students and the number of other demands placed on the AI computers. The AUM administration has committed to acquire the appropriate new equipment when such need justifies the expenditure. At present the needs are met with this powerful AI equipment from Nvidia.
PROPOSAL FOR A NEW DEGREE PROGRAM (Part 2: Course Info)

Name of Proposed Program:

Program Completion Requirements: (Enter a credit hour value for all applicable components, write N/A if not applicable)

| Credit hours required in program courses | 30 |
| Credit hours in general education or core curriculum | 27 |
| Credit hours required in support courses | N/A |
| Credit hours in required or free electives | N/A |
| Credit hours in required research | 0-6 |
| Total credit hours required for completion | 30-33 |

Note: Students who pursue the MSAI thesis option will complete 6 credit hours of research. Students who pursue the practical internship will not have dedicated credit hours for research, although particular courses may have research assignments within the course requirements.

Maximum number of credits that can be transferred in from another institution and applied to the program:

AUM allows no more than 12 credit hours to be transferred into any graduate program. However, credits transferring into the program will have to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the AI Lab Director and the COB Graduate Program Director or Associate Dean. Courses must be substantially similar to one of the existing ten MSAI courses to justify substitution for one of the existing MSAI courses.

Intended program duration in semesters for full-time students:

Full-time students in the MSAI program should be able to complete the degree program within three full semesters and a summer term spent in either an internship or, if in thesis option, spent in research connected to their thesis. The cohort model will mandate the timeframe.

Intended program duration in semesters for part-time students:

Program is not intended to be a part-time program.

Does the program require students to demonstrate industry-validated skills, specifically through an embedded industry-recognized certification, through structured work-based learning with an employer partner, or through alignment with nationally recognized industry standards? If yes, please explain how these components fit with the required coursework.

While there is no requirement, if a student wishes to pursue the practical applications of AI rather than the thesis option, then the student will participate in a faculty approved internship with various companies, institutions, organizations or agencies to demonstrate
how their learned AI skills can be used in various circumstances. The goal is that these internship courses will lead to career opportunities for these students with the various organizations.

**Does the program include any options/concentrations? If yes, please give an overview of the options, and identify the courses for each in the table below.**

There are no options/concentrations.

**Please indicate any prior education or work experience required for acceptance into the program:**

It is expected that participants selected for the MSAI cohorts will have completed a bachelor’s degree at an appropriately accredited four-year institution.

**Describe any other special admissions or curricular requirements for the program:**

A bachelor’s degree from a four-year college or university, with appropriate accreditation standards, an overall GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale; or a master’s degree from an appropriately accredited college or university with a 3.0 GPA or higher at the conclusion of the master’s program. An applicant with a doctorate degree from an appropriately accredited university is exempt from the GPA requirement.

**Please complete the table below indicating all coursework for the proposed program, identifying any new courses developed for the program, along with courses associated with each option as applicable. Include the course number, and number of credits. Coursework listed should total the number of hours required to complete the program.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number and Title</th>
<th>Number of Credit Hours</th>
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Note: The above courses presently carry an INFO prefix, however they may be reassigned a different prefix consistent with the MSAI to avoid problems within the Registrar’s office and students enrolling through the cohort model.
## NEW ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM PROPOSAL SUMMARY

**INSTITUTION:** Auburn University at Montgomery  
**PROGRAM:** Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence  
**Select Level:** Master's

### ESTIMATED "NEW" EXPENSES TO IMPLEMENT PROPOSED PROGRAM

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### "NEW" REVENUES AVAILABLE FOR PROGRAM SUPPORT

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### ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS

*Note: “New Enrollment Headcount” is defined as unduplicated counts across years.*

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### DEGREE COMPLETION PROJECTIONS

*Note: Do not count Lead “0”s and Lead 0 years in computing the average annual degree completions.*

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