



Alabama Commission on Higher Education

Request for Grant Proposals
from Public Institutions to Establish or Enhance
AI Microcredentials in Support of the *All in Alabama Initiative*

Proposals Due Friday, May 30, 2025, by 5:00 p.m.

I. Purpose and Overview

The Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) invites grant proposals from Alabama's public universities and community/technical colleges for the **AI Microcredential Grant**. This grant supports the development of **AI-focused microcredentials** aligned with the *All in Alabama* initiative during the **2025-2026 academic year**.

The *All in Alabama* initiative aims to increase awareness of in-state job opportunities and highlight the talents of current and former undergraduates from Alabama's public institutions. The **AI Microcredential Grant** supports institutions in meeting the rising demand for AI skills by developing industry-aligned microcredentials that boost student employability and support Alabama's economic goals.

Grant proposals should focus on designing, developing, or expanding stackable or standalone microcredentials that build AI competencies for high-demand fields, such as manufacturing, healthcare, finance, logistics, cybersecurity, and advanced technologies. Proposals must clearly show how these microcredentials will equip students with practical, workforce-ready skills valued by Alabama employers.

Institutions may submit up to two (2) proposals, each with distinct objectives. Preference will be given to proposals that offer AI microcredentials either embedded within credit-bearing courses or added as a supplementary component to enhance those courses. ACHE expects to award at least 15 grants, with funding prioritized to support as many institutions as possible.

II. Institutional Grant Opportunity

ACHE invites grant proposals from public institutions to develop or expand AI-focused microcredential opportunities in response to the increasing integration of artificial intelligence in the workforce. Grants of up to **\$5,000** are available to support the creation and implementation of short-term, skill-based AI learning opportunities.

Microcredentials may be delivered through digital badges, credit-bearing or non-credit courses or bootcamps, embedded or stackable credentials within degree programs, and experiential learning such as internships.

Proposals are welcome from academic and career technical programs that are either newly integrating AI content or updating existing AI components to reflect current advancements.

Grantees must be affiliated with a campus unit—such as an academic or career technical department, student organization, career services center, or other administrative offices—as grants cannot be awarded to individuals.

III. Grant Deliverables

Grantees are expected to collaborate with faculty and Alabama employers to develop and implement AI-focused microcredentials that meet industry needs and equip students with practical, job-ready AI skills.

The required deliverables include a mid-year and end-of-year report detailing the implementation plan, progress, and measurable outcomes aligned with the proposal's objectives. The end-of-year report will be published on the [All in Alabama website](#) in Summer 2026.

To support the initiative's focus on undergraduate job placement, institutions are encouraged to design microcredentials that align with the skills and competencies in high demand by Alabama's employers. **The new or enhanced microcredentials are to be fully implemented by Fall 2026.**

IV. Proposal Structure

Interested institutions are invited to submit a brief proposal (2-3 pages) by **Friday, May 30, 2025**. Proposals should include the following:

- Name of campus unit that will administer the grant,
- Primary contact responsible for grant administration (must be an employee of the institution),
- Description of plans, implementation, and evaluation methods for AI microcredentials, including how academic credit will be addressed through course integration or prior learning assessment (PLA),
- Explanation of how students, faculty, and employers will be involved in planning, implementing, and using the AI microcredentials,
- Budget overview detailing how grant funds will be used (see **V. Use of Grant Funds**), and
- Plans for sustainability of proposed activities beyond the grant period.

V. Use of Grant Funds

ACHE's grant funds are to be used for **direct costs only** (not indirect) and may cover the following expenses:

- Curriculum development and instructional design,
- Faculty training and professional development,
- AI-related tools, software, and lab equipment,
- Marketing and outreach to prospective students,
- Employer engagement and career placement support,
- Stipends for faculty and staff overseeing grant activities,
- Stipends for undergraduate students involved in grant activities,
- Reasonable travel expenses, and
- Other expenditures approved by ACHE.

VI. Ownership

Reports and other grant information submitted to ACHE under this grant shall become and remain the property of ACHE for uses and purposes as deemed appropriate by the State.

VII. Grant Period, Deadlines, and Questions

Grant Period:

August 1, 2025 – July 31, 2026

Proposal Deadline:

Proposals for the **AI Microcredential Grant** are due by **5:00 p.m. (CT) on Friday, May 30, 2025**.

Submission Instructions:

Email proposals to Dr. Stephanie C. Dolan at stephanie.dolan@ache.edu.

Contact Dr. Dolan via email or by phone (334) 353-9153 for questions.

Reporting Deadlines:

Grantees must submit the following reports, unless ACHE provides alternative dates.

Any extension of the grant period requires ACHE's prior approval.

- **Mid-Year Report: Friday, December 5, 2025**
- **Year-End Report: Friday, August 5, 2026**

Note: ACHE may request follow-up information on the impact of the AI microcredential implementation during or after the 2026-2027 academic year for state agency reporting purposes.

Informational Q&A Session:

An optional Zoom Q&A session will be held on **Tuesday, May 20**, from **1:00-2:00 p.m. (CT)**.

Join the session via the **Zoom Meeting** link; Meeting ID: **416 610 5859**; and Passcode: **ACHE2025**.