FOR APPROVAL **PUBLIC** **OPEN SESSION**

TO:	UTM Academic Affairs Committee
SPONSOR:	Professor William A. Gough, Interim Vice-Principal, Academic & Dean
CONTACT INFO:	vpdean.utm@utoronto.ca
PRESENTER:	Professor Bryan Stewart, Vice-Dean, Academic Programs
CONTACT INFO:	vdacademicprog.utm@utoronto.ca
DATE:	April 21, 2026 for April 28, 2026
AGENDA ITEM:	10

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Minor Modification: New Certificate in Artificial Intelligence and Society (Category 2), Department of Philosophy, UTM

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

Under section 5.6 of its terms of reference, the Academic Affairs Committee is responsible for major and minor modifications to existing degree programs.

GOVERNANCE PATH:

1. **UTM Academic Affairs Committee [For Approval] (April 28, 2026)**

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

No previous action taken.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The Department of Philosophy proposes a new Certificate in Artificial Intelligence and Society (Category 2), which will be open to all undergraduate students enrolled in a degree program at UTM. The Ccrtificate provides an interdisciplinary pathway for undergraduates across all programs to engage critically with both the technical and social dimensions of AI. Responding to strong student demand—particularly within Philosophy—and aligned with institutional priorities to expand AI expertise, the Certificate draws on existing courses across the humanities, social sciences, and computational fields to foster interdisciplinary learning, strengthen connections among students and faculty, and offer formal transcript recognition in a high-demand area. It is expected that the Certificate is anticipated to be an attractive

option for students from a wide range of programs but especially for Philosophy majors, minors, and specialists.

The Certificate will require 2.0 credits, including at least 0.5 credits each from two groups of courses: Group 1 -Technical perspectives on Artificial Intelligence, and Group 2 - Social perspectives on Artificial Intelligence.

The Certificate can be delivered using existing courses, faculty, staff, and facilities, with all administrative responsibilities managed within the current workload of the department's staff.

The Certificate will be open for enrolment beginning September 1, 2026.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no financial implications of the proposed change.

RECOMMENDATION:

Be It Resolved:

THAT the Certificate in Artificial Intelligence and Society (Category 2), Department of Philosophy, UTM as detailed in the proposal dated March 27, 2026, be approved, effective September 1, 2026.

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

Proposal to Create a Certificate in Conjunction with an Undergraduate Program: Certificate in Artificial Intelligence and Society (UTM).

University of Toronto Proposal to Create a Certificate in Conjunction with an Undergraduate Program

Certificates offered in conjunction with an undergraduate program are for-credit undergraduate certificates governed by the *Policy for Certificates (For-Credit and Not-For-Credit)*.

Creation and closure of these certificates follow the protocols for minor modifications; are reviewed with the relevant undergraduate program; and are reported to the Provost through the Office of the Vice-Dean, Academic Programs (VPAP). Successful completion of the certificate is recorded on the academic transcript. Students must be enrolled in a specific undergraduate program. **Please consult with VPAP on the certificate's name ahead of governance.**

This template (last updated by VPAP on April 5, 2021) should be used to bring forward all proposals for new undergraduate, for-credit, certificates that will be offered in conjunction with an existing undergraduate degree program. The creation of the certificate follows a minor modification process and is reported to the VPAP Office after approval.

Proposed certificate name:	**Certificate in Artificial Intelligence and Society**
Undergraduate degree(s) the certificate will be offered in conjuction with:	Honours Bachelor of Arts (HBA) Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) Honours Bachelor of Science (HBSc) Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA)
Academic unit:	Department of Philosophy, University of Toronto Mississauga
Academic Unit Contact:	Professor Jennifer Nagel Department of Philosophy

	jennifer.nagel@utoronto.ca Professor Gurpreet Rattan Chair, Department of Philosophy chair.philosophy.utm@utoronto.ca
Faculty/academic division:	University of Toronto Mississauga
Faculty/academic divison contact:	Professor William A. Gough Interim Vice-Principal, Academic & Dean vpdean.utm@utoronto.ca
Dean's Office contact:	Professor Bryan Stewart Vice-Dean, Academic Programs vdacademicprog.utm@utoronto.ca Ferzeen Sammy Associate Director, Academic Programs & Quality Assurance ferzeen.sammy@utoronto.ca
Version date:	April 22, 2026

1 Summary

- Please provide a brief summary of the certificate, including:
  - academic rationale for certificate
  - impetus for its development (including interest and demand)
  - how the certificate fits with unit/division's academic plans
  - any important or distinctive elements.

The Department of Philosophy proposes a Category 2[1] Certificate Program in Artificial Intelligence and Society. The aim of the certificate is to enable students across a diverse range of programs to incorporate an interdisciplinary focus on Artificial Intelligence (AI) into their studies. It fulfils institutional and divisional objectives related to supporting and growing AI expertise, as the University has become a hub of AI research, teaching and development. The certificate also builds interdisciplinary

[1] **Category 2**: the certificate is offered in conjunction with an undergraduate degree program requiring students to be enrolled in a specific University of Toronto undergraduate degree program.

links, connecting diverse teams across the university and fostering student success. While the certificate is open to all UTM undergraduates, its introduction is motivated in part by strong observed demand from philosophy undergraduates for AI-related courses, reflected in high and growing enrolments in courses such as PHL240H5: Minds and Machines and the newly introduced PHL360H5: Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence.

The certificate will be an attractive option for undergraduates from diverse academic backgrounds. The completion of the certificate requires 2.0 FCE from a list of courses from the departments of Philosophy, Computer Science, English, Language Studies, Sociology, and the Institute of Communication, Culture, Information, and Technology (CCIT). Students who complete the certificate will study both the technical and the social dimensions of Artificial Intelligence, including at least one course at the 300+ level. With this certificate, students who study AI research within their programs of study will be able to deepen their engagement with the subject by adding AI-related courses from other disciplines and work towards an add-on transcript notation in an in-demand area.

The certificate highlights existing connections between course offerings in humanities, mathematical and computational sciences, and social sciences and as such it presents a unique opportunity to spark interdisciplinary conversations and relationships among diverse undergraduates and faculty. It will also give students motivation to broaden their perspectives on AI while expanding their intellectual networks and adding marketable skills and knowledge to their degrees.

2 Effective Date

September 1, 2026

3 Academic Rationale

- What are the academic reasons for the certificate, and how does it fit with the unit/division's academic plans?

The proposed certificate offers students from diverse programs an opportunity to incorporate an emphasis on AI into their studies. AI is a timely and significant area of

research and teaching within philosophy and also more broadly in the humanities and social sciences, as well as in the mathematical and computational sciences. Moreover, the certificate aligns with institutional goals articulated by U of T's AI Task Force, especially the support and growth of AI expertise as a strategic priority.

In 2025, the Department of Philosophy introduced PHL360H5: Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence and in 2026 will introduce the recently approved PHL241H5: Ethics of Artificial Intelligence. These courses reflect the department's prioritization of AI as a subject of teaching and research, and they respond to an increased interest and demand among undergraduates in philosophy. We believe the proposed certificate offers our students a chance to build on the knowledge gained in these courses and work towards a credential in an increasingly in-demand area.

The certificate also highlights and strengthens interdisciplinary links between the numerous departments at UTM offering courses related to AI. It gives students studying AI in one discipline motivation to broaden and deepen their knowledge by taking courses in others. For example, philosophy students are encouraged to complement their knowledge of ethical and philosophical issues with cognate perspectives from computer science, linguistics, English, education studies, sociology, or CCIT.

The certificate also embodies several stated priorities from UTM's strategic framework. It contributes to **fostering student success**, by offering students a path towards building interdisciplinary expertise in an in-demand area. It also contributes to **empowering research discovery and impact** (including interdisciplinary insight and collaboration) and towards **encouraging collaboration and belonging** (by connecting diverse teams across the university).

4 Need and Demand

- Provide a brief description of the projected interest in and demand for the proposed certificate.
- Provide details regarding the anticipated yearly intake.

The proposed certificate is open to all UTM undergraduate students, and we expect it will be an attractive option for students from a wide range of programs but especially

for Philosophy majors, minors, and specialists. Philosophy students often express interest in marketable skills that will help them in their careers after graduation and the certificate gives them an option to achieve a transcript notation in an in-demand area while continuing to pursue their Philosophy degree.

The certificate may also be attractive to prospective UTM students, since it would have few analogues at universities in Ontario or Canada. Only Wilfred Laurier University (Waterloo), University of Alberta, and Université de Montréal currently offer similar multidisciplinary add-on certificates focused on AI. Students seeking credentials in AI but not wishing to pursue, for example, a specialized computer science degree or a diploma from a school for continuing studies have few options in Ontario or Canada.

We expect the certificate to draw strong interest from Philosophy majors, minors, and specialists, in part due to strong observed demand for PHL courses that have a focus on AI. Such courses have seen increased enrolment numbers over the past four years: enrolment in PHL240H5: Minds and Machines increased from 60 to 70 students between 2023 and 2025, with the classroom at full capacity. Similarly, PHL360H5: Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence was filled at 70 students in its first offering, with a waitlist of 15 students (at peak). The certificate may also be attractive to students who are enrolled in the new Logic minor, given their interdisciplinary interests in Philosophy and Mathematical and Computational Sciences. Based on these factors and the general level of enrolments for add-on certificates at UTM, we estimate that between 10 and 20 students will enroll in the certificate each year.

5 Admission Requirements

- Provide the admission requirements for the certificate.

The proposed certificate is open to all undergraduate students at UTM.

6 Program Requirements

- This certificate will consist of a coherent sequence of for-credit undergraduate courses related to an identified topic or theme that may complement the degree program.

- Describe the academic requirements of the certificate and mechanism for the assessment of student performance.
- Clarify the certificate program length.
- Is this certificate linked to a particular undergraduate program or degree? Please explain the relationship.
- Please provide a calendar copy in Appendix B.

2.0 credits are required, with at least 0.5 credit at the 300+ level and at least 0.5 credit from each of the following two groups:

Group 1: Technical Perspectives on Artificial Intelligence

- CSC105H5: Artificial Intelligence Literacy
- CSC311H5: Introduction to Machine Learning
- CSC384H5: Introduction to Artificial Intelligence
- CSC413H5: Neural Networks and Deep Learning
- CCT212H5: Coding Cultures
- CCT404H5: Creativity and Technology
- CCT431H5: Drones, Robots, Artificial Intelligence

Group 2: Social Perspectives on Artificial Intelligence

- ENG107H5: Literature and AI
- PHL240H5: Minds and Machines
- PHL241H5: Ethics and Artificial Intelligence
- PHL360H5: Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence
- EDS285H5: The Future of Ed Tech: Active Learning Classrooms
- LIN340H5: Computing with Natural Language
- LIN341H5: Linguistics and Computation
- SOC314H5: AI, Robotics, and Society

Note: additional courses may be required to fulfill prerequisites. For assistance with course planning, students may consult the Academic Advisor at ugadvisor.philosophy.utm@utoronto.ca.

7 Consultation

- Outline any consultation undertaken with the Dean and chair/director of the relevant academic units and relevant programs.

The idea for this Certificate Program began with a meeting on June 9, 2025, initiated by Vice-President and UTM Principal Alexandra Gillespie, and involving Vice-Dean Academic Programs Bryan Stewart and faculty with interests in AI from multiple departments (Andrew Petersen, Avery Slater, Tingting Zhu and Jennifer Nagel). Having agreed that it would be worthwhile for UTM to pursue a non-degree certificate in this area, Jennifer Nagel consulted with the Department of Philosophy Chair Gurpreet Rattan about having Philosophy host the certificate. In September and October, Nagel then consulted over email with Department Chairs Ilia Binder (Department of Mathematical and Computational Sciences), Holger Syme (Department of English and Drama), David Pettinicchio (Department of Sociology), and Arsalan Kahnemuyipour (Department of Language Studies), all of whom expressed agreement in principle to some certificate of this type, and identified relevant courses from their offerings. Further email outreach to Teresa Lobalsamo, program coordinator for Education Studies, confirmed Education Studies' enthusiasm for the certificate. The certificate proposal was circulated to all stakeholders in early December for commentary. At that time Brett Caraway, Acting Director of ICCIT, replied that his unit was also ready and willing to participate, and added three further courses to our lists, and the certificate plan was revised to include these courses, while also incorporating feedback from the Office of the Dean, and the UTM Vice-Dean, Academic Programs. A draft proposal was circulated to all the chairs and directors at the end of January. That version required students to take at least 0.5 FCE in each of three areas. Upon closer examination of the prerequisites for the courses in these areas, the UTM office of the Dean was concerned that the prerequisite burden in this complex breadth requirement would block most students from being able to complete the certificate. It was also suggested that we include a requirement of at least 0.5 FCE at the 300+ level. This updated version, circulated in mid-March, has a simplified breadth requirement, obliging students to take at least 0.5 FCE in each of two areas (technical and social). At the same time, we have updated the requirements to have students take at least 0.5 FCE at the 300+ level, to guarantee that all students who complete the certificate will receive some advanced training in issues relevant to AI.

8 Resources

- Describe any resource requirements including, but not limited to, faculty complement, space, libraries and enrolment/admissions.

- Indicate if the certificate will affect any existing agreements with other institutions, or will require the creation of a new agreement to facilitate the certificate (e.g., Memorandum of Understanding, Memorandum of Agreement, etc). Please consult with the Provost's Office (vp.academicprograms@utoronto.ca) regarding any implications to existing or new agreements.

The proposed certificate does not require the creation of new resources in terms of faculty positions, facilities, or teaching assistants. The included courses are taught by existing faculty and projected demand for the certificate will not generate need for additional sections at this time. The administration of the certificate will be handled by existing staff in the Department of Philosophy.

9 Oversight & Accountability: Review

- Category 2 certificates are subject to periodic reviews with the relevant undergraduate program. Please provide details. This will be tracked by the VPAP Office.

The certificate will be administered by the Department of Philosophy and as such the department will assume administrative and academic responsibilities, including to review and modify the eligible courses as necessary, and to include the certificate in its mandated upcoming review of academic programs. The certificate will be subject to cyclical external review alongside other programs offered by the Department of Philosophy. The next review is scheduled to take place in Winter 2027.

10 Process Steps & Approvals

The pathway is summarized in the table below.

	Approving Body	**Approval Date**
Development & Consultation within Unit	Gurpreet Rattan Chair, Department of Philosophy	March 11, 2026
	Bryan Stewart Vice-Dean, Academic Programs	March 26, 2026

Consultation with Dean's Office (and VPAP)	Margarida Duarte Vice-Dean, Undergraduate	
	VPAP sign-off	March 19, 2026
Divisional Governance Approval	UTM Academic Affairs Committee	April 28, 2026
Submission to VPAP upon approval		April 29, 2026 (anticipated)

Appendix A: Proposed Learning Outcomes

Certificates offered in conjunction with an undergraduate program will have a subset of complementary learning outcomes in relation to the program. Divisions are responsible for developing the outcomes and expectations for certificates in the context of divisional norms. Please outline in the table below how the design, structure, requirements and delivery of the certificate support the certificate learning outcomes and expectations.

Certificate Expectations	**Certificate Learning Outcomes**	**How the Design/Structure Supports the Certificate Expectations**
Depth and Breadth of Knowledge	Students will be able to identify key issues concerning AI from both technical and social perspectives. Students will have significant expertise in some dimension of AI.	In pursuit of this goal, the certificate requires 0.5 FCE from each of two categories: one focused on technical perspectives (Computer Science and CCIT), one on social perspectives (English, Philosophy, Linguistics, Education Studies, and Sociology). The requirement of at least one course from each of these categories ensures that students must broaden their perspective on AI across the line dividing technical disciplines from the humanities and social sciences. In addition, the certificate requires 0.5 FCE at the 300+ level, so that students will achieve significant depth of knowledge relevant to some technical or social dimension of artificial intelligence.

Awareness of Limits of Knowledge	Students will gain awareness of the limitations of understanding of AI from any single disciplinary perspective, and will situate their current knowledge of AI within the ongoing development of ideas from both technical and social perspectives.	The interdisciplinary requirements aim to ensure that students will encounter questions and frameworks for thinking about AI that would have been left out if their study of AI had included only one subject area (e.g., that of their major). The inclusion of courses in humanities, sciences, and social sciences will give students the opportunity to examine the costs and benefits of AI, and AI-related power relations from multiple points of view.
Autonomy and Professional Capacity	Students will develop critical understanding of values motivating AI-involving decisions throughout society.	Each path to fulfilling the certificate requirements involves learning about multiple perspectives on the value of AI. We believe that students can gain insight into the values underlying AI-involving decisions in many ways, including exploring social and ethical issues from philosophical, literary, or sociological perspectives, or deepening one's understanding of AI's theoretical and technological foundations and its applications, including its strengths and limitations.

Appendix B: Proposed Calendar Copy

Certificate in Artificial Intelligence and Society

Description:
The Certificate in Artificial Intelligence and Society is open to students interested in artificial intelligence (AI), its ethical, social, and pedagogical implications and its theoretical underpinnings. The certificate includes 2.0 credits drawn from courses in philosophy, computer science, communication, culture, information and technology, education studies, English, linguistics, and sociology. Students enrolled in the Certificate will gain interdisciplinary insights into this technology and an ability to think rigorously and critically about its development and implementation throughout society.

Enrolment Requirements:
Enrolment in the Certificate in Artificial Intelligence and Society is open to all undergraduate students completing programs at UTM.

Completion Requirements:
2.0 credits are required, with at least 0.5 credit at the 300+ level and at least 0.5 credit from each of the following two groups:

Group 1: Technical perspectives on Artificial Intelligence

CCT212H5 or CCT404H5 or CCT431H5 or CSC105H5 or CSC311H5 or CSC384H5 or CSC413H5

Group 2: Social perspectives on Artificial Intelligence

EDS285H5 or ENG107H5 or LIN340H5 or LIN341H5 or PHL240H5 or PHL241H5 or PHL360H5 or SOC314H5