

C - Small Curricular Revisions : Entry # 3449**Today's Date**

02/21/2025

Your Name

Michael Oudshoorn

Your Email:moudshoo@highpoint.edu**Department Chair Name**

Michael Oudshoorn

Email address of your department chairmoudshoo@highpoint.edu

By checking below I am certifying that my department chair (named above) has seen and approved the courses that are included in this proposal.

Yes

Please select the appropriate school overseeing this proposal:

Engineering

Does this proposal correspond to a particular term?

To take effect August 2026

Which category does this change fall under?

- Name change of college, school, department, program, center, institute, major, minor, concentration, or track

Name change

The proposal is to change the name of the BS in Data Science to BS in Artificial Intelligence and Data Science.

Rationale for above changes

The degree is not attracting as many students as desired. Given that AI is a significant part of Data Science, then elevating its importance to include it in the degree name (BS in Artificial Intelligence and Data Science). is appropriate

Renaming a BS in Data Science to a BS in Artificial Intelligence and Data Science better reflects the evolving landscape of the field and the interdisciplinary skills required by modern industries. Several reasons why such a change is beneficial include:

1. AI and Data Science Are Increasingly Intertwined

- Data Science traditionally focuses on data collection, cleaning, visualization, and statistical modeling.
- AI techniques, particularly machine learning (ML) and deep learning, have become integral to modern data science applications.
- Many data science careers now require proficiency in AI-driven methods like natural language processing (NLP), computer vision, and generative models.

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- Employers increasingly seek professionals skilled in AI alongside data science.
- Job titles such as 'AI Engineer,' 'Machine Learning Scientist,' and 'AI Data Analyst' are growing in demand.
- Renaming the degree ensures graduates are more competitive and clearly positioned for AI-driven roles.

3. Expanded Curriculum to Reflect AI's Role

- A traditional BS in Data Science curriculum covers programming, statistics, and analytics.
- A BS in AI and Data Science could incorporate courses such as:
 - Machine Learning & Deep Learning
 - Neural Networks & Computer Vision
 - Natural Language Processing
 - AI Ethics & Fairness
 - AI Deployment & MLOps
- This aligns with emerging AI frameworks and real-world applications.

4. A More Future-Proof Degree Title

- The future of data science is AI-driven, with automation and intelligent algorithms playing a central role.
- AI-powered tools are replacing traditional analytical methods, so graduates need expertise beyond basic statistical modeling.
- A broader degree name ensures long-term relevance and adaptability.

Conclusion

A BS in Artificial Intelligence and Data Science better represents the real-world skills, knowledge, and career pathways required in today's AI-driven economy. It clarifies the scope of the degree, increases its appeal to students and employers, and ensures graduates are equipped for the future of AI and data-driven innovation.

Does this change affect any other departments, schools, or programs besides your own? If so, please describe your consultation process with affected parties in the box below.

No other department or school should be impacted.

Dean Review

[DEAN] I approve/deny this proposal

Approve

Today's Date

21-02-2025

Name of Dean (if this is being reviewed by multiple deans, please indicate who approved it first here)

Michael Oudshoorn

Comments

These changes were discussed and approved by the department.