

CAIA AI Computing Access Program – FAQ

1. What is the AI Computing Access Program?

The AI Computing Access Program is a statewide initiative of the Connecticut AI Alliance (CAIA) that provides cloud-based and high-performance computing resources to faculty and students at participating institutions. The program supports AI-related teaching, research, coursework, and general education integration.

2. What need does the program address?

Many institutions do not have the computing capacity required for modern AI activities, including model training, experimentation, and instruction. The program helps close this gap by offering access to advanced GPU computing and AI tools that are otherwise cost-prohibitive.

3. Who is eligible to apply?

Faculty at CAIA member institutions are eligible. Some tracks also support graduate students or undergraduate project teams when supervised by faculty. Students may not apply independently but may participate in approved faculty-led projects.

4. What activities or projects are supported?

The program supports:

- Faculty and graduate research
- Undergraduate capstone or senior design projects
- AI-focused course instruction
- Integration of AI concepts into non-technical courses across disciplines

5. What are computing credits?

Computing credits are cloud-based resources allocated to participants, such as GPU or TPU compute time, storage, machine learning workloads, or model inference costs.

6. What resources are provided through the program?

Participants receive access to:

- GPU computing for training and experimentation
- Large language model APIs via Google Vertex AI
- Cloud tools such as Google Colab Pro or Jupyter-based environments
- High-performance computing access through partner systems

7. Do applicants need prior AI or programming experience?

No. Some program tracks are designed for faculty with little or no AI experience, and onboarding and training are provided.

8. How is the program funded and administered?

The program is funded by the Connecticut Office of Higher Education (OHE) and administered by CAIA in partnership with CCIC and CEN.

9. How long does the program run?

The current application cycle supports projects taking place during Summer and Fall 2026 as part of a broader multi-year initiative.

10. How are applications reviewed?

Applications are evaluated through a structured review process conducted by a panel of faculty and subject-matter experts selected from CAIA universities. Reviews are based on criteria such as project merit, impact, feasibility, and alignment with program goals.

11. Can applicants submit more than one proposal?

Yes, as long as each application represents a distinct project.

13. Are training sessions available?

Yes. CAIA offers training on program tools and platforms.

14. Will the presentation deck and webinar recording be available?

Yes. Both are available online:

- Recording: <https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/gw5lECgxZo2...>
- Slides:

<https://www.theccic.org/Customer-Content/www/CMS/files/CAIA/CAIA-ComputingAccessInfoSession03262026.pdf>

15. Are user groups or communities planned for specific AI vendors (such as Google or Gemini)?

Participants expressed interest in this. CAIA may explore user groups or vendor-aligned communities as the program expands.

16. Are tools available beyond Google's Gemini models?

The program provides access to Google Vertex AI, including Gemini and other supported generative AI models documented on the Vertex AI site.

Available models in Vertex AI: <https://docs.cloud.google.com/vertex-ai/generative-ai/docs/models>

17. What is the appropriate track for research on AI adoption in organizations (for example, business or industry-focused research)?

Projects focused on organizational AI adoption or strategy should apply under the faculty and graduate research track.