

# Connecticut AI Alliance (CAIA)

## AI Computing Access Program

### Application Form: Capstone / Senior Design Projects

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Award Period: Summer 2026 – Fall 2026 | Total Track Allocation: ~\$200,000

## Program Overview

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The Capstone/Senior Design Projects track provides cloud computing credits to support undergraduate capstone and senior design teams working on AI-related projects. Awards provide access to GPU computing resources (via Google Colab Pro or JupyterHub) and/or LLM API access (via Google Vertex AI). Faculty sponsors from CAIA member institutions may apply on behalf of one or more student project teams. Applications are evaluated by a peer-review committee of CAIA faculty.

**Eligibility:** Only full-time or part-time faculty at CAIA member institutions are eligible to apply. A current list of member institutions is available at [ctaialliance.org](https://ctaialliance.org).

## Section 1: Applicant Information

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### 1. Full Name

### 2. Email Address

*Please use your institutional email.*

### 3. CAIA Member Institution

*Select your institution from the dropdown list.*

### 4. Department / Program

### 5. Title / Rank

*e.g., Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Professor, Lecturer, Adjunct*

### 6. Phone Number

*Optional. For follow-up communication if needed.*

## Section 2: Project Information

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**7. Number of Capstone/Senior Design Teams Included in This Application**

*You may include multiple teams in a single application. Provide details for each team below.*

**8. For each team, provide the following:**

*If applying for multiple teams, copy this block for each team or use the “Add another team” option in the form.*

**a. Project Title**

**b. Project Description**

*Describe the project goals, AI/ML methods involved, and expected outcomes. (300 words max)*

**c. Team Size**

*Number of students on the team.*

**d. Course / Program Context**

*Which course or program requirement does this capstone/senior design project fulfill?*

**e. Industry or Community Partner (if applicable)**

*Name the external partner and briefly describe their involvement.*

**f. Expected Project Timeline**

*Indicate whether the project runs in Summer 2026, Fall 2026, or both.*

- ☐ Summer 2026
- ☐ Fall 2026
- ☐ Both (Summer + Fall 2026)

## Section 3: Computing Resource Requirements

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**9. What type(s) of computing resources are you requesting? (Select all that apply)**

- ☐ GPU Computing – Google Colab Pro/Pro+
- ☐ GPU Computing – JupyterHub (managed cluster)
- ☐ LLM API Access – Google Vertex AI

**10. Describe the computational workloads your project(s) will require.**

*Include details such as: model types (e.g., CNN, Transformer, LLM fine-tuning), dataset sizes, estimated training/inference time, GPU memory requirements, and any specific hardware preferences (e.g., T4, A100). (250 words max)*

**11. If requesting LLM API access, specify:**

**a. Which models do you plan to use?**

*e.g., Gemini Pro, Gemini Ultra, PaLM 2, Claude (if available via Vertex), etc.*

**b. Estimated number of API calls or tokens per month**

**c. Use case description**

*e.g., RAG pipeline, chatbot prototype, code generation, text classification, etc.*

**12. Estimated total cloud credit budget requested for this application.**

*Provide your best estimate in USD. Individual awards are typically in the range of \$1,000–\$10,000 depending on scope.*

## Section 4: Educational Impact & Learning Outcomes

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**13. How will access to these computing resources enhance student learning outcomes?**

*Describe the pedagogical value of the requested resources for your capstone teams. (250 words max)*

**14. Will this project produce any shareable deliverables? (Select all that apply)**

- ☐ Open-source code repository (e.g., GitHub)
  - ☐ Technical report or paper
  - ☐ Poster or presentation (e.g., at CAIA Research Symposium)
  - ☐ Deployed application or demo
  - ☐ Dataset or benchmark
  - ☐ Other (please specify below)
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**15. Does this project involve collaboration with another CAIA institution?**

- ☐ Yes

☐ No

*If yes, please identify the partner institution(s) and describe the collaboration.*

## Section 5: Responsible AI & Data Practices

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**16.** Does your project involve any of the following? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Human subjects data (requires IRB approval)
- ☐ Protected health information (PHI / HIPAA)
- ☐ Personally identifiable information (PII)
- ☐ Biometric data (facial recognition, voice, etc.)
- ☐ Synthetic media generation (deepfakes, synthetic text, etc.)
- ☐ None of the above

**17.** If any boxes are checked above, describe the safeguards and approvals in place.

*Include IRB protocol numbers if applicable. (200 words max)*

**18.** How will your team ensure responsible and ethical use of the AI computing resources?

*e.g., bias mitigation, data governance, security practices, student training on responsible AI use. (200 words max)*

## Section 6: Prior Support & Additional Funding

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**19.** Have you previously received computing resources through CAIA or a similar program?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

*If yes, briefly describe the prior award, outcomes, and how the current request differs.*

**20.** Is this project supported by any other funding sources? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Institutional funding (department, college, or university)
- ☐ Federal grant (NSF, NIH, DOE, DARPA, etc.)
- ☐ Industry sponsorship
- ☐ No other funding
- ☐ Other (please specify below)

## Section 7: Department Chair / Program Director Acknowledgment

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A brief email acknowledgment from the applicant's department chair or program director is required, confirming that the capstone/senior design project(s) listed in this application are part of the official curriculum. The acknowledgment should be sent to [caia@newhaven.edu](mailto:caia@newhaven.edu) with the applicant's name and project title(s) in the subject line.

**21. Department Chair / Program Director Name**

**22. Department Chair / Program Director Email**

## Section 8: Applicant Certification

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By submitting this application, I certify that:

- I am a faculty member at a CAIA member institution.
- The information provided in this application is accurate and complete.
- I will ensure that all computing resources are used in accordance with CAIA's Acceptable Use Policy and the cloud provider's terms of service.
- I will submit a brief outcomes report at the conclusion of the award period.
- I acknowledge that awarded credits must be used within the Summer 2026 – Fall 2026 period and are non-transferable.

**23. Electronic Signature (Full Name)**

**24. Date**

## Appendix: Review Criteria

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Applications will be evaluated by a peer-review committee using the following criteria:

| Criterion                                 | Weight      | Max Points |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| Technical Merit & AI Relevance            | 25%         | 25         |
| Educational Impact & Learning Outcomes    | 25%         | 25         |
| Feasibility & Resource Justification      | 20%         | 20         |
| Responsible AI & Data Practices           | 15%         | 15         |
| Shareable Deliverables & Broader Impact   | 10%         | 10         |
| Cross-Institutional Collaboration (bonus) | 5%          | 5          |
| <b>Total</b>                              | <b>100%</b> | <b>100</b> |

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Questions? Contact the CAIA Program Office at [caia@newhaven.edu](mailto:caia@newhaven.edu)  
[ctaialliance.org](http://ctaialliance.org)