AI Roadmap for the University of Arizona

Office of Responsible Artificial Intelligence (ORAI)

Land-Grant Mission

We acknowledge our mission as Arizona's public land-grant research university and the importance of remaining aligned in our AI adoption efforts across the University of Arizona. Our actions will be guided by the framework that is developed and how AI is implemented and adopted across the university. As the Arizona land-grant institution, the U of A capitalizes on its unique location, top-tier R1 status, and Arizonans' expertise to drive social, cultural, and economic impact across the state. Land-grant universities link their research to critical sectors of the state's economy and to the practical improvement of key indicators such as outcomes, educational attainment, and quality of life.

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Acknowledgements

The University of Arizona's AI Roadmap was made stronger through the contributions of 247 volunteers from across our community. We are grateful for the time, expertise, and perspectives they shared. Their dedication and partnership were critical to shaping the roadmap and creating a vision that reflects the collective strength of our institution.

I. Executive Summary

The AI Roadmap for the University of Arizona (U of A) establishes a strategic direction with targeted initiatives to implement a comprehensive, sustainable framework for the responsible, secure and effective use of artificial intelligence at the U of A. The roadmap is grounded in the commitment to advance responsible, human-centered artificial intelligence across research, education, operations, and innovation with cross-cutting efforts throughout the university while fulfilling the institution's land-grant mission to serve Arizona's diverse communities.

The AI Roadmap is led by the Office of Responsible Artificial Intelligence (ORAI) at the U of A, directed by Chief AI Officer David Ebert, within the Office of Research & Partnerships and the Office of the Provost. Our focus areas include research, education, operations, and innovation, wrapped in a governance strategy and university-wide effort for responsible AI adoption. As a university-wide effort to establish a common language around Responsible AI, we will use the following definition: *Responsible AI considers the broader societal and environmental impacts, incorporating ethical principles, transparency, legal standards, and societal values.*

Our **mission** is to empower the U of A to accelerate ethical, human-centered responsible AI across research, education, operations, and innovation, enabling the campus community to use AI as a partner in discovery, creativity, and efficiency in service to Arizona, the nation, and the world. Our **vision is** to lead the nation in advancing responsible AI where human insight, ethical integrity, and societal impact guide innovation that expands human capability and helps shape a smarter, more sustainable world.

Guided by Arizona's land-grant mission, our office is dedicated to aligning AI adoption across the university and the communities we serve. We consist of three coordinated teams focused on AI fluency and research, AI applications, and AI infrastructure, supported by an operations team that plans, coordinates, and delivers ORAI activities.

Fundamental to the ORAI team's work, we operate in partnership with the Office of the President, Office of Research and Partnerships, Office of the Provost, University Center for Assessment, Teaching and Technology (UCATT), U of A Faculty Senate, U of A Staff Council, University Information Technology Services, Facilities and Planning, Human Resources, University Information Technology Services, Finance & Budget, colleges and departments to advance our shared AI strategy for the U of A, and student councils and student organizations.

As artificial intelligence reshapes higher research, education, and operations, the U of A is uniquely positioned to lead through responsible innovation. Our R1 research distinction, interdisciplinary strengths, deep partnerships with tribal nations, and land-grant mission of democratizing knowledge create a foundation for impact through integrity.

Artificial intelligence is rapidly evolving; therefore, it is imperative to define concrete starting points to move from planning to action across research, education, and operations, while maintaining flexibility for the evolution of technology. This framework is intentionally designed to balance immediate action with ongoing flexibility, providing direction today while remaining responsive to technological advances, emerging best practices, and evolving campus needs as our collective understanding deepens. Through this work, we are aligned with the Strategic Imperatives for the U

of A: Success for Every Student; Research that Shapes the Future; and Engagement with our Communities to Create Opportunity. To this end, the AI Roadmap is a working document that will be updated by the university community every semester as per feedback during the ORAI AI Townhall meetings.

II. Strategic Goals

We have identified the following strategic goals in the areas of research, education, operations, innovation, and governance.

- Research: Establish R1 Leadership in catalyzing collaborative AI research, attracting diverse funding sources, and positioning the university as a national leader in AI-enabled discovery.
- Education: Democratize AI fluency across campus via comprehensive AI fluency programs that empower students, faculty, and staff to enhance their creativity, efficiency, and productivity in the effective and responsible use of AI tools.
- University Operations: Enable campus services to implement AI solutions that enhance administrative efficiency and operational workflows for institutional effectiveness in support of Facilities and Planning, Student Services, Human Resources, University Information Technology Services, and Finance & Budget.
- Innovation in Research Operations: Deploy scalable AI infrastructure and architecture with an institutional AI Platform with FERPA/HIPAA-compliant environments, research support services, and cloud partnerships to enable innovative research.
- Governance: Establish a sustainable governance framework to anticipate changes within the fast-paced AI landscape and efficient decision making. The focus is continual engagement with stakeholders as partners for leading Responsible AI governance.

The strategic goals identified above are further detailed below to establish concrete actions to democratize AI fluency (education), empower researchers, capitalize on innovation and enable operational excellence across the university.

Research Goals - Establish R1 leadership in catalyzing collaborative AI research, attracting diverse funding sources, and positioning the university as a national leader in AI-enabled discovery.

- Establish a dedicated research institute within ORAI to coordinate and advance collaborative AI research across campus.
- Develop and scale research networks to catalyze convergent research initiatives and attract diverse funding sources.
- Implement findings from research infrastructure assessments by developing targeted training and resource development for research teams.
- Finalize and operationalize Responsible AI principles across research.
- Deepen community engagement in research through ongoing participatory research mechanisms
- Support flagship health innovation initiatives through institutional governance structures.

Education Goals - Democratize AI fluency across campus via comprehensive AI fluency programs that empower students, faculty, and staff to enhance their creativity, efficiency, and productivity in the effective and responsible use of AI tools.

- Expand AI competency programming across undergraduate, graduate, and professional curricula.
- Develop stackable credential pathways and micro-credentials for diverse learner competency levels.
- Launch AI-focused coursework through institutional and external educational partnerships.
- Scale educational seminar series and informational programming across campus.
- Finalize and operationalize Responsible AI principles across education.
- Integrate AI competency expectations into foundational coursework within academic disciplines.
- Develop faculty capacity for teaching with and about AI through professional development initiatives.

University Operations Goals - Enable campus services to implement AI solutions that enhance administrative efficiency and operational workflows for institutional effectiveness.

- Scale institutional generative AI platform deployment to increase adoption across the university community.

- Expand AI platform offerings including custom chatbot services and secure development environments.
- Optimize institutional AI infrastructure to support growth, scalability, and operational demands.
- Formalize Responsible AI guidelines and establish compliance protocols across university units.
- Inform the development of a university AI policy as directed.
- Establish regular community engagement forums for ongoing transparent communication and stakeholder input.

Innovation in Research Operations Goals - Deploy scalable AI infrastructure and architecture with an institutional AI Platform with FERPA/HIPAA-compliant environments, research support services, and cloud partnerships to enable innovative research. The following efforts are part of our AI Action Plan:

- U of A GenAI Tool
- AI Innovation Pilot program
- AI Consultations
- AI Research Support Services & Proposal Development
- Soteria (HIPAA-compliant data and analysis enclave)

Governance - Establish a sustainable governance framework to anticipate changes within the fast-paced AI landscape and ensure efficient decision making. The focus is continual engagement with stakeholders as partners for leading Responsible AI governance.

- Establish an AI Governance effort
- Establish an AI Advisory Board
- Contribute to the development of an AI Policy for U of A

III. AI Action Plan

Our AI Action Plan is based on our identified strategic goals to design, pilot, and scale initiatives that reflect diverse perspectives, align with institutional values, and provide the knowledge, resources, and infrastructure needed for innovation. We engaged representatives across the following seven domains to inform the AI Roadmap for the U of A:

1. AI in Research
2. AI Institutional Excellence
3. AI Education
4. AI Infrastructure and Resources
5. AI Guidelines and Principles
6. AI Sustainability
7. AI in Community

In the development of the AI Roadmap for the U of A, it is important to note the cross-cutting efforts taken to implement the various lines of effort.

Guidelines and Principles
The U of A's six Responsible AI Principles ground all initiatives:

1. Innovation and Development in the use of AI,
2. Fair and accessible opportunities for all in education, operations, and research activities,
3. Alignment with existing policies, laws, and ethical practices,
4. Environmental well-being and responsible use of resources,
5. Advancement of the integrity and accountability of individuals, the institution, and communities, and
6. Protect privacy and security of information and systems (digital and physical).

These frameworks ensure AI enhances, not replaces, human judgment, maintains academic integrity through proper attribution, and protects sensitive data while promoting democratic dialogue about AI's role in education, research, and operations.

Support to ORP's Strategic Research Initiatives
ORAI will partner with and accelerate the Office of Research and Partnership's strategic research initiatives, including Promise of Fusion Energy, Future of Sustainable Mining & Critical Minerals, and Space and National Security, by providing AI expertise, computational infrastructure, and data science capabilities.

ORAI is leading the AI-Driven Responsible Health Innovation strategic research initiative, which applies AI to transform healthcare delivery, biomedical research, and health equity across Arizona's diverse populations. The initiative's focus is accelerating discovery and translation, advancing responsible AI and policy, expanding access to care, strengthening the health workforce, and catalyzing a robust health innovation economy.

Through coordinated support across all initiatives, AI tools enhance research capacity, accelerate discovery, and amplify impact, demonstrating how AI serves as an institutional multiplier for complex, convergent research challenges.

AI Governance Structure
To ensure sustainable, ongoing collaboration, cooperation, and knowledge sharing around artificial intelligence, we are establishing a formal AI Governance framework anchored by a U of A AI Governance. Our intent is to assemble a cross-functional U of A AI Governance Council of people invested in ensuring we approach AI in a responsible, transparent, and trustworthy manner for our entire campus community. Our

peer R1s are beginning to organize in this space, and we need to ensure the U of A remains genuine in its approach to reflect our values and the needs of our faculty, students, and staff.

Support to Campus Research Efforts
ORAI is leading efforts to collaborate with campus researchers on a variety of AI-driven solutions. We will catalyze and build AI-enabled, creative research and innovation across campus. This will be done through the Arizona Institute for AI and Society (AI^2S) as our central executing body, under the leadership of David Ebert, Chief AI Officer, providing the institutional structure needed to guide and act on our technical AI initiatives. U of A AI Platform, AI Innovation Pilots, consulting, and proposal support are designed to boost AI-enabled research and creative efforts.

Community
Community partnerships bring AI benefits beyond campus through collaboration with tribal nations, digital inclusion networks, educational institutions, and community organizations. This work identifies community needs, tackles barriers like connectivity and training, and empowers community members as creators, not just consumers, of AI solutions. These human-centered partnerships fulfill our land-grant mission and serve communities across Arizona and beyond.

Sustainability
Environmental stewardship guides responsible AI adoption through energy-efficient computing, sustainable infrastructure, and responsible resource management. The cross-cutting sustainability team promotes efficient architecture and edge computing and cultivates mindful resource usage to position the U of A as a leader in responsible and sustainable AI practices.

Marketing and Communications Plan
We launched our Responsible AI website - https://responsibleai.arizona.edu, providing a single authoritative source for guidelines, resources, and information. Our strategic communication will focus on building awareness and adoption across all phases. Our marketing and communications effort will be a team effort, with our team working with the ORP Marketing and Communications team to coordinate messaging. We will use multiple outlets to reach our intended audiences to ensure transparent, accessible information reaches all stakeholders while building trust in our AI adoption efforts.

Activities: Engagement, Strategic Convenings, & Programming

*Arizona AI Leadership Summit (**Once a Fiscal Year**)*
The Arizona AI Leadership Summit brings together leaders from higher education across the country, state and local government, industry, and community organizations. This convening explores how artificial intelligence can be responsibly integrated to advance public benefit across Arizona and beyond.

The Summit aims to position the U of A as a connector of AI stewards and trusted partners, building a statewide network that translates academic expertise into actionable guidance for communities, agencies, and decision-makers. As we shape this work, leadership and perspective across fields and disciplines is valuable in helping Arizona build an AI ecosystem rooted in trustworthy, responsible actions that have real-world impact.

*National AI in Health Innovation Symposium (**Once a Fiscal Year)***
The National AI in Health Innovation Symposium is a national convening hosted by the U of A. The event brings together leaders from academia, healthcare systems, industry, and government from across the country to explore how artificial intelligence is transforming health research, clinical care, and population health.

Through keynote addresses, expert panels, and featured presentations, the symposium showcases emerging AI-driven innovations, responsible and trustworthy AI practices, and real-world applications that improve health outcomes nationwide. The symposium emphasizes discovery, translation, governance, access, and impact—particularly for rural, tribal, and underserved communities across Arizona and beyond.

The symposium positions the U of A as a national hub for AI-enabled health innovation, fostering cross-sector collaboration and dialogue to advance ethical, equitable, and responsible use of artificial intelligence in health.

*AI Town Halls (**Two sessions per semester**)*
The purpose of the AI Town Hall Listening session is to receive feedback on the AI Roadmap from the campus community. The listening sessions will allow the team to remain responsive to technological advances, emerging best practices, and evolving campus needs as our collective understanding deepens.

The purpose of the AI Town Hall Update session is to provide the community with an update of the U of A's AI Roadmap, taking into consideration feedback from the campus community. The AI Roadmap will serve as the strategic guiding framework that incorporates feedback from U of A faculty, researchers, staff, and students. The AI Roadmap will continue to shape how AI supports education, research, operations, and innovation across campus.

*AI Insights Programming (**Tuesday, at least every two weeks**)*
AI Insights launched in October 2025 as a dynamic, accessible education series designed for less technical audiences. Aligned with the Responsible AI mission, the series has grown in popularity by creating space for thoughtful exploration of artificial intelligence through real world applications, diverse perspectives, and discussion.

AI Insights features presenters across the university ecosystem who highlight topics such as AI in writing programs, ethical considerations of AI and AI best practices, AI in transportation and real time data, the use of AI tools in assessment, and applications for operations and administrative professionals. By intentionally focusing on practical use cases—rather than technical depth—the series lowers barriers to entry and invites broader participation.

Open to staff, faculty, students, and the wider community, AI Insights directly supports the Responsible AI Office's mission to provide education and resources that center human experience and foster responsible adoption of AI. The program encourages cross-departmental conversation and collaboration, building a community of learning and shared understanding while exploring how AI can serve as a partner in discovery, creativity, and efficiency.

AI Insights continues to grow in 2026, while remaining grounded in its core commitment: welcoming non-technical users who seek clarity, confidence, and context around AI. By maintaining this inclusive approach, AI Insights strengthens the ORAI's capacity to advance Responsible AI—empowering individuals and communities with knowledge that is ethical, practical, and responsive to diverse needs.

*AI Info Sessions Programming (**Thursday, every two weeks**)*
Launched in December 2025, AI Info Sessions expands the Responsible AI ecosystem by providing targeted, research focused education on AI tools, methodologies, and governance. Led by team members within the Arizona Institute for AI and Society, the series is designed to support faculty and researchers seeking deeper technical engagement and practical application within their scholarly and operational work.

AI Info Sessions feature technology demonstrations, U of A–supported AI tools, research platforms for literature review, and guided discussions on Responsible AI principles. By pairing firsthand exploration with

ethical and institutional context, the series supports informed, secure, and effective use of AI in research environments.

This program directly aligns with the mission of the Responsible AI Office by expanding access to specialized resources that enable researchers and faculty to integrate AI responsibly into discovery, analysis, and innovation. As participation continues to grow, AI Info Sessions strengthens research capacity while reinforcing shared standards for transparency, accountability, and ethical use.

AI Info Sessions will continue to expand its offerings in response to faculty and researcher needs—supporting the U of A's role as a land-grant research institution committed to advancing knowledge that delivers meaningful societal impact.

IV. AI Cohorts

Associate Directors for AI Program
The Associate Directors for AI program engages faculty who have deep disciplinary expertise with AI leadership to create intersectional, convergent research across the university. They lead the expansion of research and teaching, forge cross-disciplinary collaborations, and position the U of A as a national leader in AI-enabled inquiry across fields. The inaugural cohort of faculty Associate Directors will be announced by Fall 2026.

Associate Directors for AI serve as the connector between ORAI's and AI^{2}S cross-disciplinary AI mission and the distinct expertise, cultures, and opportunities of the entire campus community. These are non-technical AI leaders who understand AI's implications beyond their field and are committed to shaping how U of A engages with those implications. They are part of the leadership team moving AI Excellence and U of A forward.

U of A AI Fellows Program
The U of A AI Fellows are faculty or staff focused on integrating AI into academic work at the college and university level. The AI Fellows are active shapers of how AI transforms higher education at the U of A. AI Fellows are faculty and staff leaders who play a critical role in advancing the University's responsible, strategic, and mission-aligned use of artificial intelligence.

U of A AI Campus Champions
U of A AI Campus Champions is a pilot program launched in Summer 2026. AI Campus Champions are faculty and staff who are embedded within their units across all domains, including research, operations, education, and administration. They facilitate unit-level AI adoption, identify training needs, communicate updates from ORAI and relevant external bodies, support colleagues in responsible AI use, and surface emerging needs back to ORAI for program planning. This is an AI leadership opportunity designed for faculty and staff committed to advancing institutional transformation through the applied and responsible use of artificial intelligence. Participants complete a six-week hybrid program designed for 4 hours of coursework per week, with one hour in-person session per week. This will be followed by serving as an AI Campus Champion throughout the remainder of Fiscal Year 2027.

V. Roadmap: Cyclical Phases, Progress, and Plans

The AI Roadmap activities will be executed across five phases to create institutional momentum, a sense of purpose, and milestones. Our efforts are designed to inspire action and innovation, and to provide guardrails for responsible AI use. The AI Roadmap will be updated and refined with every significant change, with new activities and priorities, and the community will be updated at our regularly scheduled AI Town Halls.

Phase 1: Framing and Discovery (Fall 2025 - Spring 2026) - cycle one completed
Phase 1 was designed and completed as a foundation-building period to understand preceding action. Rather than rushing to implement solutions, we prioritized listening, learning, and laying the groundwork for informed decision-making across our campus community.

Arizona Institute for AI and Society
We established the Arizona Institute for AI and Society (AI^2S) as our central executing body, providing the institutional structure needed to guide and act on our technical AI initiatives. With this foundation in place, we embarked on comprehensive campus-wide listening tours and surveys across education, research, and operations, creating opportunities for direct engagement with faculty, students, and staff to understand current AI usage, needs, and concerns.

AI Roadmap Development
Our approach combined qualitative insights from these listening tours with quantitative data gathered through systematic surveys of AI usage patterns in education, research, infrastructure, and administration. This approach enabled us to perform gap analysis, identify missing resources, establish training opportunities, promote policy, establish guidelines, identify gaps in principles, and quantify infrastructure requirements.

Throughout this phase, we maintained regular engagement through weekly Thursday meetings with domain representatives and the ORAI, ensuring continuous collaboration, cooperation, and alignment. We hosted AI Town Halls to broaden community participation and began drafting Responsible AI principles informed by the perspectives we gathered. This deliberate, discovery-oriented approach culminated in our Draft AI Roadmap - a document grounded in real community needs rather than assumptions.

Phase 2: AI Roadmap Planning (Spring 2026 - Fall 2026)
Phase 2 transitions from understanding and discovery to strategic action, building directly on the insights and community engagement established in Phase 1. While we began activating select AI initiatives, this phase was primarily dedicated to refining and finalizing the AI Roadmap for the U of A.

Recognizing that successful AI integration requires institutional alignment and public sector partnerships, we have established essential collaboration through the following activities: an Office of the Provost Liaison, the University Information Technology Services Liaison, a U of A Global Campus partnership, Google AI for Education Accelerator for integration of AI, and Amazon Web Services (AWS).

U of A AI Platform
The cornerstone of Phase 2 was the planning of the U of A AI Platform while securing critical cloud partnerships to support scalable infrastructure and innovative architecture. The following are the initial offerings of the U of A AI Platform, which will be planned, developed, and launched throughout our phasing construct:

- U of A GenAI: A tool to provide access to state-of-the-art large language models.
- U of A GenAPI: Application interface access to LLMs dedicated to researchers and users who want to connect their programming environments to LLMs.

- AI Discovery Lab: A tool allowing users to run in the AI Discovery Lab with access to dedicated hardware to develop and experiment with machine learning and artificial intelligence in a secure environment.
- Arizona AI Assistant: Service offering custom Retrieval-Augmented Generation chatbots.
- WildcatChat: A public-facing dedicated campus chatbot with retrieval-augmented generation (RAG) with access to all public campus information.

AI Fluency Effort
During this phase, we collaborated with internal and external stakeholders to understand different AI fluency pathways. We launched the AI Insights Series and AI Info Sessions in response to feedback about the gap in offerings addressing AI fluency on campus. We explored the offerings available through our designation as a Google AI for Education Accelerator university and are developing an integration plan. Additionally, we are exploring partnering with the Digital Data Design Institute at Harvard (D^3) for AI fluency and other episodic opportunities.

In coordination with the Provost Office, we monitor the productive partnership between UCATT & University Libraries with UAGC as they continue to develop AI fluency options for faculty, staff, and students in support of the Provost Office's *Success for Every Student Goal 3: Increase emerging technological competencies*:

- 3.a. Provide resources and training for faculty and staff in the responsible, ethical, and innovative use of AI to support its implementation in their work.
- 3b. Educate students in the responsible, ethical, and innovative use of AI in curricular and extracurricular contexts to support the development of critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Additionally, we are establishing an enduring partnership between ORAI, University Libraries, and UCATT to continue evolving AI fluency offerings for faculty, staff, and students. These pathways will ensure broad accessibility to AI knowledge across our campus community, fulfilling our land-grant mission of democratizing educational access. Recognizing that transformation requires collective effort, we will be launching collaborations spanning campus, community, and STEM partnerships. We are committed to an enduring collaboration effort with key stakeholders to integrate AI into select courses and programs.

AI Innovation Pilot Program
Simultaneously, we initiated our AI Innovation Pilot program, demonstrating a tangible commitment to supporting the campus in leveraging AI tools, techniques, and methods. AI Innovation Pilot program provides the opportunity to transform your idea into a working prototype in just 8 weeks. We provide technical expertise, computing resources, and firsthand development to create proof-of-concept solutions for operational projects. Giving participants the ability to leverage custom AI/ML solutions.

AI Research Support Services
AI Research Support Services include AI Consultations and AI Research Support & Proposal Development. As part of our comprehensive support framework, AI Consultations serve as the most accessible entry point for researchers seeking expert guidance in AI, machine learning, and data science to propel their projects and research forward. Whether you are just beginning to explore AI or are looking to refine a specific technical approach, our team provides a low-barrier way to get professional advice tailored to your project or research lab's unique needs.

Through our AI Research Support & Proposal Development, we will help secure dedicated AI engineering support for funded research projects. This program provides consistent technical team members for grant proposals and research execution. This service is intended for externally funded work.

Research Community of Excellence
We launched the AI Research Communities of Excellence (RCoE) program within AI^{2}S to catalyze collaborative and convergent research at the U of A with artificial intelligence, machine learning, and data science.

The intent is to bring together faculty and researchers to identify convergent areas of research to strategically position both the University and its faculty as national leaders in the use of artificial intelligence and data-enabled innovation. RCoEs should be open to including new participants from new research domains in activities.

Through connecting researchers around broad research areas and providing structured support, AI RCoE members meet colleagues from across campus, discuss problems and potential projects to solve them, generate competitive team-based proposals, attract federal and foundation funding, and accelerate the University's contributions to local, national, and global priorities.

This phase culminates in the publication of our *AI Roadmap for the U of A*, establishing direction for university-wide AI adoption grounded in responsible AI practices through community input.

Phase 3: Launch AI Initiatives (Spring 2026 – Spring 2027)
Phase 3 represents our shift from planning to tangible adoption, operationalizing the strategic vision developed in Phases 1 and 2. Building on our established infrastructure and community engagement, we activated comprehensive AI initiatives across education, research, and operations while maintaining our commitment to responsible practices.

U of A AI Platform
We will launch the U of A GenAI, GenAPI, and AI Discovery Lab tools, delivering immediate value to faculty, students, and staff. Concurrently, in partnership with AWS, we will be establishing initial guardrails to reinforce ethical and responsible AI use.

AI Fluency Effort
We will expand our AI fluency efforts through the AI Insights, AI Info Sessions, Google AI for Education Accelerator integration, and UNIV 101 AI Fluency curriculum integration.

Research Support
We will continue to mature our support to AI Innovation Pilots, Research Support Services, and U of A Custom AI/ML capabilities, providing FERPA- and HIPAA-compliant environments to support responsible AI research across disciplines.

Phase 4: Expand AI Initiatives (Spring 2027 – Spring 2028)
Phase 4 marks our transition from initial deployment to comprehensive scaling, building upon the successful launches of Phase 3. With the U of A AI Platform offerings operational and community engagement established, we will systematically expand our capabilities across education, research, and operations while strengthening our responsible AI framework.

U of A AI Platform
We will broaden our AI Platform ecosystem by introducing Arizona AI Assistant to offer custom RAG chatbots, AI Discovery Lab for discovery and agentic AI experimentation, and planning and development of Wildcat Chat. Simultaneously, we will scale existing offerings by expanding U of A GenAI, AI Discovery Lab, and beyond pilot programs to serve broader campus populations with enhanced features and capacity.

AI Fluency Effort
Our AI fluency efforts will continue to offer resources, including Google AI for Education Accelerator programs and secure cloud partner training, ensuring diverse learning pathways for varied skill levels across our community.

AI Infrastructure Review
Recognizing that sustainable growth requires robust infrastructure, we will conduct comprehensive reviews of our AI technical architecture, ensuring alignment with our scaling trajectory and institutional needs.

AI Guidelines and Principles Review
Concurrently, we will continue to formalize Responsible AI guidelines across academic, research, operational, and administrative units, embedding ethical practices into workflows.

This phase will culminate in systematic evaluation of all AI initiatives, assessing impact, adoption, and areas for refinement—establishing the foundation for Phase 5's sustained flexibility for change in the age of AI.

Phase 5: Full Adoption and Sustainment (Spring 2028 - beyond)
Phase 5 is designed as a living framework embracing continuous adaptation rather than fixed endpoints. As the AI landscape transforms, we will update our AI Roadmap to remain agile, regularly reassessing our strategies and evolving our approach to meet emerging opportunities and challenges across operations, education, and research.

Central to our sustainment efforts is an unwavering commitment to Responsible AI: we will continuously evaluate how our AI adoption efforts impact human experience, dynamics, and decision-making across our campus community. We will establish an assessment cadence to prioritize human insight, agency, and wellbeing. We are committed to ensuring AI adoption is a partnership with Responsible AI use for impact across education, research, and operations, to maintain the primacy of human judgment, creativity, and ethical oversight.

We will sustain dedicated focus on the following: advancing AI fluency progression to competency and to fluency that prepare students for an AI-enabled future; supporting cutting-edge research that pushes the boundaries of AI innovation while adhering to ethical standards; and optimizing operational efficiency through AI tools that enhance—not replace—human capacity.

The U of A's sustainment phase is not about maintaining static systems, but about building institutional capacity to anticipate, evaluate, and thoughtfully integrate change while safeguarding the human elements that define our academic community. Our land-grant mission calls us to serve our communities with relevance and foresight; therefore, this phase is the enduring dialogue with stakeholders, iterative improvement of our practices that center human experience.

We acknowledge sustaining Responsible AI requires our institutional capacity to evolve with purpose, ensuring the U of A remains consistent in our values to honor human dynamics, to serve our diverse communities, and to strengthen our impact through meaningful human-AI partnership in research, education, and operations.

Appendix A. Phasing Construct

Q1 – FY26			Q2 – FY26			Q3 – FY26			Q4 – FY26		
Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
	Fall 2025					Spring 2026					
	Phase 1 - Discovery		Phase 2 – AI Roadmap Planning & Launch of AI Initiatives					Phase 3 – Launch AI Initiatives			
Q1 – FY27			Q2 – FY27			Q3 – FY27			Q4 – FY27		
Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
	Fall 2026					Spring 2027					
Phase 3 - Launch AI Initiatives						Phase 4 – Expand AI Initiatives					
Q1 – FY28			Q2 – FY28			Q3 – FY28			Q4 – FY28		
Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
	Fall 2027					Spring 2028					
Phase 4 – Expand AI Initiatives						Phase 5 – Full Implementation & Sustainment					

Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 5
AI Team Discovery	**AI Roadmap Planning & Begin Initial Launch of AI Initiatives**	**Launch AI Initiatives**	**Expand AI Initiatives**	**Full Implementation & Sustainment**
Begins: AI Roadmap Co-Lead Mtg **Ends**: Draft AI Roadmap **(Oct 15, 2025)** **Key Events:** 1. Establish Arizona Institute for AI & Society (AI^2S). 2. Launch campus-wide listening tours (education, research, operations). 3. Survey AI usage in teaching, research, infrastructure, and administration. 4. Conduct gap analysis: identify missing resources, training, policies, infrastructure. 5. Begin drafting Responsible AI principles tailored for education, research, and admin. 6. Collect early feedback from faculty, students, and administrators. 7. Conduct AI Town Halls to solicit community participation and to receive AI Roadmap feedback. **Deliverable: Complete Draft AI Roadmap**	**Begins**: Refine AI Roadmap **Ends**: Completed AI Roadmap **(Spring 2026)** **Key Events:** 1. Launch AI Insights Series; AI Info Sessions. 2. Launch AI Innovation Pilot program; Research Support Services; U of A Custom AI/ML. 2. Develop draft guiding principles and policies for Responsible AI. 3. Plan & develop offerings in support of the U of A AI Platform & secure cloud partnerships. 4. Establish Provost Liaison / Partnership. 5. Establish UITS Liaison / Partnership. 6. Establish UAGC partnership for AI literacy to fluency alignment. 7. Establish resource hub with ORAI website. 8. Host AI in Health Innovation Symposium. 9. Host Arizona AI Leadership Summit. **Deliverable: Final AI Roadmap Published**	**Begins**: Launch AI Initiatives **Ends**: Evaluation of AI Initiatives **(Spring 2027)** **Key Events:** 1. AI Fluency: AI Insights Series; AI Info Sessions; AI Google Accelerator; Univ 101 AI literacy; UAGC partnership; AI Fluency Working Group. 2. Teaching & Learning pilots: Integrate AI into select courses & programs. 3. Operations & Research support: AI Innovation Pilots; Research Support Services; U of A Custom AI/ML ->Support responsible AI research across disciplines, with infrastructure access & compliance environments (FERPA & HIPAA). 4. Launch: AI Platform offerings: U of A GenAI & API Access; AI Sandboxes. 5. Establish initial AI guidelines and principles. 6. Launch cross-cutting collaborations (e.g., campus, community, STEM, etc.). 7. Transition to an effective AI governance model. **Deliverable: Evaluation to inform "Phase 4 Pilot" Initiatives**	**Begins**: Launch expanded AI Initiatives **Ends**: Evaluation of AI Initiatives **(Spring 2028)** **Key Events:** 1. Expand AI Platform offerings with Arizona AI Assistant; Wildcat Chat. 2. Scale-up AI Platform offerings for U of A GenAI & API Access; AI Sandboxes. 3. Expand AI literacy resources to campus (AI Google Accelerator, secure cloud partner trainings, etc.). 4. Review AI infrastructure to align with scale-up plan. 5. Formalize responsible AI guidelines across units. **Deliverable: Evaluation to inform "Phase 5" full implementation**	**Begins**: Implement Full Scale AI Initiatives **Sustainment**: Steady State Ops **(Starting Spring 2028)** **Key Events:** 1. Scale-up AI Platform offerings supporting research, innovation, education, and operations. 2. Institutionalize Responsible AI guidelines (policy adoption & compliance). 3. Formalize long-term industry partnerships for cloud, GenAI, and Healthcare AI. 4. Formalize AI governance and establish a bi-annual review of ongoing AI offerings supporting research, innovation, education, and operations to ensure alignment with evolving AI landscape.

Appendix B. Detailed Goals/plans for each subgroup

AI in Research	*Set up a directory of resources for AI in Research (w. infrastructure group). *Write and publish guidelines for responsible and ethical AI research in conjunction with the AI guidelines and principles group. *Characterize the changing funding landscape considering AI advances. *Identify resources and gaps needed to foster AI in research. *Establish an "AI help line" to get async help with AI in research inquiries.	* Support both new and established researchers with AI practices of research and methods. * Expand training on resources (tools & infrastructure) from phase 3. * Expand the AI help line to connect teams with AI experts (research software engineers, cyberinfrastructure professionals, etc) for longer engagements. * Branch out AI Insights, Communities of Excellence beyond the original strategic priorities (tentatively).
AI Institutional Excellence	*Market existing, approved AI tools that provide institutional data protection. *Partner with the guidelines team to develop and publish guidelines for use of commercial AI tools not managed under enterprise contracts. *Conduct discovery related to use of agentic AI for task and process automation. *Identify AI champions in different administrative domains to hold focused workshops for their peers. *Solicit proposals for University AI chatbots, develop review/prioritization criteria, and build two additional chatbots. *Develop recommendations to inform the data and AI governance processes that will be needed to advance and sustain use of AI.	*Pilot use of agentic AI for a select set of business processes. *Conduct discovery and provide recommendations for agentic AI governance. *Evaluate use of Arizona AI chatbot efficacy. *Assess use of approved AI tools and conduct gap analysis to identify potential new additions to enterprise supported tooling.
AI Education	***Students** will have a *foundational base* for Responsible AI to have a critical discourse within their discipline and beyond via a UNIV 101 module *(Gen Education - VP for Undergraduate Education)* ***Faculty (Instructors)** will have the information and methodology to implement Responsible AI in their learning environments. Venues include onboarding of new faculty *(VP of Faculty Affairs & UCATT)* and summer workshops *(UCATT)*. ***Staff** will have training to implement Responsible AI into their work at the university via required EDGE Learning *(ORAI, maybe UCATT)* UA will create, curate, and provide **Learning Experiences** in a variety of modalities to be	*Implement bootcamps for **faculty** to learn Responsible AI *($, UCATT),* and develop Responsible AI faculty fellowships *($, ORAI)*. *Colleges and units will build upon the university-wide Responsible AI work by creating and curating tailored learning opportunities for their **faculty and staff**. *(UCATT, ORAI)* and administrators will serve as promoters of responsible AI in their units *(MarCom)*. *Continued creation and curation of learning experiences and updating of resource hub.

	included in a hub that address a variety of needs including compliance, research, productivity, creativity, and curiosity. *Create a **hub for resources on Responsible AI** *(UITS)* that supports **Responsible AI pathways** from literacy, to fluency, to competency, innovation, collaboration or co-creation. Platform should also be accessible to the broader community to utilize and learn from U of A Responsible AI resources.	
	*Launch a three-pronged approach to provide a clear vision, shared language, actionable guidance and comprehensive resources on AI for instructors and students. *__Part 1 is a Strategic Communication Plan__ that will immediately establish and disseminate a consensus-driven AI Stance and Guidance document, supported by an ongoing, campus-wide communication and engagement strategy. *__Part 2__ will pilot and roll out a __critical conversation series__ to empower campus-wide, faculty-led curriculum evolution. __*Part 3__ features a living __AI Ecosystem Hub__ that curates and promotes tools, resources, training, use cases, and guidance for teachers and students.	*Strategic Communication & Engagement Plan *Critical Conversation Series *Launch and Expand Centralized Resource Hub
AI Infrastructure & Resources	**Batch Computing** *Education Computing Pilot: Small-scale teaching HPC for select courses; short queue model. *Research Computing Needs Assessment: Survey campus-level compute needs towards research - Compare against current resource landscape *Small HPC Pilot utilizing Soteria and Soteria HPC **Service Computing** ***AI Research Sandboxes (Alpha):** Web accessible, small GPU instances for rapid prototyping. ***AI Support Services Pilot:** Deploy shared databases, login/auth services, and internal project sites.	**Batch Computing** ***Education Compute Expansion**: Integrate with multiple classes; implement instructor scheduling. ***Research Computing Expansion:** Test HPC/AI pipelines on campus. **Service Computing** ***AI Education Sandboxes (Beta):** Pre-configured environments for courses; scalable to class size. ***AI Services (Inference Pilot):** Deploy lightweight production inference (e.g., AI Verde). ***AI Support Services Expansion:** Harden infrastructure for uptime and multi-user projects.

AI Guidelines & Principles	*Draft of principles. *Collecting existing policy and practice related to AI (environmental impact, data privacy, etc.) on campus. *Identify a risk framework. *Engage AI advisory team in research and discovery. *Utilize the survey information to understand needs.	*Evaluate risks and determine where guidance is needed to mitigate risk. *Identify partners for establishment and ongoing elaboration of the guidelines. *Draft of Guidelines. *Recommendations for ongoing support for ethical use of AI (ongoing monitoring, evaluation and reporting).
AI Sustainability	***Establish Sustainability Guidelines for AI Selection** - Partner with Guidelines team to create decision frameworks for choosing between high-impact AI services versus lower-impact alternatives. ***Design Sustainability Impact Assessment Templates** - Develop standardized forms for evaluating environmental implications before implementing new AI initiatives ***Develop AI Tools Directory** - Build a catalog of "small" AI solutions. ***Initiate Campus-wide Awareness Campaign** - Educate community about benefits and impacts of AI, including labor savings, compute time, water usage, energy consumption, and carbon impacts of different AI technologies. ***Develop Mindful AI Usage Training Program** - Create workshops/materials for faculty, staff, and students about computational costs of different AI applications and how to make efficient choices. ***Create "Pause and Consider" Protocols** - Develop checklists for researchers and educators to evaluate when AI is beneficial and identify the most sustainable approach for their use case.	***Prepare and Publish Annual "Sustainable AI Practices Report:"** Document adoption rates of more sustainable practices, showcase innovative local/edge AI implementations, and share case studies of efficient AI use. This could be done in conjunction with other AI surveys of the UA Community. ***Create Sustainable AI Procurement Standards:** Develop criteria for evaluating and selecting AI tools based on functionality and environmental impact trade-offs. ***Scale Edge Computing Infrastructure:** Deploy local AI capabilities in UA computer labs and classrooms to offer classroom AI options. ***Launch Seed Grant Program for Sustainable AI** - Fund research and development of small language models (SLMs), local, and edge computing solutions for teaching and research; arid climate solutions. ***Establish Green AI Innovation Awards** - Recognize researchers and educators who develop or adopt low-impact AI alternatives.
AI in Community	*Define key community stakeholder sectors e.g., K14 education, workforce development, small business, governance, Tribal communities, etc.) (max 5 goals). *Understand and document priorities and barriers (e.g., connectivity, tech, and training) from the community sectors. *Identify assets and partners at U of A and in the community (who are working on various elements that can be leveraged). *Create a unified message from U of A to describe collaboration with community sectors to include equity, community members as creators, not just consumers.	*Understand boundaries of resources available *Determine the commitment from U of A to contributing to community AI needs *Develop a plan to meet (0-100%) critical needs by sector *Create inter- and intra-cross-sector collaborations. *Create campus-community collaborations.

Appendix C. List of Participating Members

Office of Responsible Artificial Intelligence
David Ebert, Chief AI and Data Science Officer
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AI Guidelines and Principles
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AI Sustainability

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