

PhD Fellowship in Artificial Intelligence

Request for Applications (Academic Year 2025-2026)

Eligibility: UF students, accepted or enrolled in a PhD program offered by PHHP, whose primary research mentor is a graduate faculty member in PHHP

Application Deadline: January 15, 2025

Expected Notification of Review/Award: March 1, 2025

Anticipated Award Period: August 15, 2025 – August 14, 2026

Award Funding: Each award will cover student's stipend of \$31,000, including associated fringe benefits, and travel/publication support up to \$2,000

Number of Awards: 2-3 (max 2 per PhD program)

Purpose

The PHHP PhD Fellowship in Artificial Intelligence (AI) aims at fostering students' training and research in AI, both theoretical and applied, relative to topics in public health and health professions. The long-term goal is to build a legacy of excellence in AI for the PHHP PhD programs with national and international recognition. In the short-term, the awards provide an opportunity for individual academic growth, professional networking, dissemination, and research support for both research mentors and students through the provision of student's stipend and travel / publication funds.

Theme Areas

All areas of public health and health professions pertaining to the current PHHP PhD program offerings (biostatistics, clinical psychology, epidemiology, public health, and rehabilitation science). Projects can focus on foundational AI, applied AI, or ethics of AI. High-risk, out-of-the-box ideas are encouraged.

Eligibility Criteria and Application Instructions

Eligible applicants are UF students accepted or enrolled in a PhD program offered by PPHP, whose primary research mentor is a graduate faculty member in PPHP and have at least one year remaining in their study. Applicants cannot be prior recipients of this award.

The application package consists of:

1. One letter/e-mail of eligibility and support from the student's Mentor, or the Program Director, or the Department Chair
2. Student's fellowship proposal, structured into
 - a. Non-technical abstract with title (250 words max) —abstracts of funded proposals are published on the PPHP AI webpages
 - b. NIH-style Specific Aims (1 page) and -optionally- a technical description (1 page max)
 - c. Bibliography
3. Student's CV (1 page max)

The application package must be submitted, as a single PDF document, to the Associate Dean for Artificial Intelligence and Innovation via email to apriloneal3@ufl.edu. The application package must be submitted by the Program Director or on their behalf with their permission (cc'ed in the e-mail).

Review and Notification Process

All proposals will be evaluated by more than one reviewer under the oversight of the Associate Dean for AI and Innovation. Reviewers will score each proposal in a 10-point Likert scale and provide a brief narrative. Besides scoring, awards will be also dependent on the concurrence of applications and available funds. The review feedback will be sent back to all applicants along with the award decision.

Award Expenditures and Utilization

Awards will be disbursed to the student's department through a specific fund in support of research for the duration of the award period and managed by the department administrator. The employment record of the awarded student will be managed by the research mentor's department. The award does not affect the student's existing stipend level, i.e., if the student has an existing stipend rate that is higher than this award's stipend coverage, the student's research mentor is expected to cover any differential between the award support and the student's existing stipend.

Funds provided by this award are for the explicit use and coverage of the awarded student's stipend, fringe benefit and travel support. The supporting research mentor is expected to provide tuition waiver assistance with their existing funds. Awards are not transferable to other students.

Should a student's research mentor change during the award period, the Program Director or Department Chair will work with the Associate Dean for Artificial Intelligence and Innovation to transfer the award to another research mentor.

Any unused funds will be returned to the college at the end of the award period, i.e., there is no provision for carryforward of funds or award extensions.

Should the student receive and accept other internal or external award(s) with associated funding, this fellowship will:

- provide partial stipend support to ensure the student has stipend coverage consistent with the current PPHP stipend level, i.e., this award will provide a top-up without deferment but not a supplement;
- in the event the secondary award provides stipend coverage consistent with the current PPHP stipend level, this fellowship award, including travel support, will cease.

Reporting requirements

The student is expected to present the project results at the PPHP Days or other major UF research showcase. Presentations / posters at national/international conferences, or paper publications are highly encouraged (in which case travel/publication funds can be used). The mentor is equally responsible for the reporting requirements and must provide written justification in case they were not met. All presentations / publications should acknowledge the receipt of support from the College of Public Health and Health Professions Professional Doctoral Fellowship in AI.