

AI Literacy I

Course Overview

Series Overview

AI is already shaping how students learn, create, and connect, and it's just getting started. The AI Literacy course series, developed by the Imagine Learning curriculum development team, equips students to do more than just understand artificial intelligence. It prepares them to question it, evaluate it, and use it responsibly. In AI Literacy I, students move from foundational concepts to hands-on model building. They explore how AI systems work, where they fall short, and why human judgment still matters. AI Literacy II builds on that critical thinking foundation, expanding into more complex applications and ethical challenges.

AI Literacy I will be available early summer for use in Fall Semester 2026. AI Literacy II will be available at the end of calendar year 2026 for use in Spring Semester 2027. It is recommended the courses be completed sequentially. Additional courses are planned, with more information coming toward the end of 2026.

AI Literacy I Course Description

In this semester-long course, students explore how artificial intelligence shapes the world around them, and how they can shape it in return. Students investigate how smart tools sense, process, and act on data while learning the key differences between traditional coding, machine learning, and AI systems. Through hands-on activities and real-world case studies, students examine how data is collected, cleaned, labeled, and used to train models, and how bias, privacy, and fairness influence AI outcomes. Students build and test their own no-code AI models, evaluate accuracy and fairness across groups, and explore how AI systems impact media, decision-making, and daily life. Along the way, they learn when to use AI, when not to use it, and how to communicate their use responsibly. By the end of the course, students will be empowered to think critically, act ethically, and participate confidently in an AI-driven world.

Course Goals

- Define artificial intelligence, machine learning, algorithms, and data in your own words.
- Explain how data moves through a pipeline from collection to decision-making.
- Train a simple AI model and evaluate its accuracy.
- Identify bias, privacy risks, and fairness concerns in AI systems.
- Analyze when AI is appropriate to use in real-world situations.
- Develop a responsible AI use plan that includes transparency and ethical safeguards.



Curriculum Map

Unit 1: AI Foundations
What Counts as Intelligent
AI, ML, and Coding: Key Differences
How Smart Tools Turn Inputs into Actions
From Data to Decisions
Benefits and Risks of Everyday AI
When Not to Use AI
Responsible AI Use Policies and Disclosure
Unit 2: Data and Privacy
The Data Pipeline
Features, Labels, and Goals for Data
Training and Testing Data
Potential Issues with Training and Testing Data
Documenting Data and Sources
Bias in Data
Data Privacy
Unit 3: Perception and Media
Sensing and Perceiving
Speech-to-text
Face Detection
Identifying Objects in Context
Inclusivity in AI-generated Media
Credibility in AI-generated Media
Failures of Perception
Unit 4: AI Training
Problem Framing and Labels
Building a First No-Code Classifier
Comparing Model Versions
Interpreting Accuracy and Results
Evaluating Fairness Across Groups
Input Relevance
Model Summaries
Unit 5: AI, Environment, and Governance
AI System Governance
Where AI Systems Run
Estimating Cost and Impact
Designing for Efficient AI Use
The Hardware Lifecycle
Tools for AI Governance
AI Policy Proposals