

ETHICS OF DATA AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, CERTIFICATE

The issues that most concern society in regards to data, machine learning, and AI are not exclusively computational; instead, they are ethical, social, and political in nature, and they demand understanding from across disciplines, especially humanistic ones.

Experts from all kinds of disciplinary backgrounds—in academia as well as business, policy, and government—are increasingly collaborating on joint projects and beginning to “speak the same language.” For students to join such teams tackling ethical issues of data and AI of any kind, they must learn to speak that same language and be equipped with the conceptual resources and interdisciplinary skills necessary for addressing the ethical, legal, and societal implications of AI.

This certificate integrates multiple humanities and social science perspectives, including from philosophy, history, data policy, science and technology studies, and media studies. Students will explore ethically and socially urgent questions like:

- How can we ensure that AI systems assess everyone in a just and unbiased way?
- Is it justifiable to base decisions about individuals on statistical generalizations?
- If AI outputs are not fully explainable, should they still be deployed?
- How important are long-term risks related to the safety of highly sophisticated future AI tools in comparison to other kinds of risks here and now?