



Academic Year 2025-2026

**Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence  
Systems Management (AIM) Handbook  
Addendum**

Degree Programs Covered by This Handbook:  
AIM (12 Month)

Updated Oct 22, 2025

# Table of Contents

<b>1. Introduction.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. AIM Mission Statement.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3. Department Personnel.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4. AIM Curriculum.....</b>	<b>4</b>
4.1. Required Courses.....	5
4.2. Elective Options.....	5
<b>5. Number of Units per Semester.....</b>	<b>6</b>
5.1. Normal Courseload Expectation for AIM Students.....	6
5.2. Unit Increase Policy.....	7
5.2.1. Requirements.....	7
5.2.2. Unit Increase Timeline.....	7
<b>6. Capstone Projects.....</b>	<b>7</b>

# 1. Introduction

This handbook provides specific information on the curriculum and program requirements for the Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence Systems Management (AIM) program. The Heinz College also published a separate handbook which details College-wide policies and procedures pertaining to education planning, program committee, teaching, scheduling and course credit, performance standards, academic standing, ethics and discipline, student privacy rights, and major forms and deadlines.

While this handbook is specific to your academic experience in the department, it is just one element of the Graduate Student Handbook Suite. There are several other resources within the suite that you should consult when needed:

- [The Heinz College Handbook](#)
- [University-Wide Graduate Student Handbook](#) (Office of Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs)
- [The Word Student Handbook](#)

# 2. AIM Mission Statement

The mission of the Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence Systems Management (AIM) program is to develop the next generation of AI deployers, strategists, and evangelists. These individuals will be equipped to address the organizational, technical, and societal challenges of operationalizing AI, with a focus on applying artificial intelligence for meaningful and responsible benefit.

Students in the AIM program should be able to:

- Apply critical thinking and best practices in making AI-related decisions
- Analyze the costs, benefits, and risks of AI initiatives
- Evaluate and recommend appropriate AI and data architectures
- Instrument, measure, and explain AI outcomes
- Employ responsible AI practices, with a focus on trust, equity, and bias mitigation
- Communicate AI strategies and technical insights effectively with diverse stakeholders
- Understand and anticipate the broader societal consequences of technological change

### 3. Department Personnel

The staff listed below are directly associated with the AIM program. There is a robust team at Heinz College and CMU available to help you navigate your education, from financial aid and student services to disability services and more.

Andrew Wasser	Associate Dean, School of Information Systems and Management	<a href="mailto:wasser1@andrew.cmu.edu">wasser1@andrew.cmu.edu</a>
Goutam Balla	Academic Advisor	<a href="mailto:gballa@andrew.cmu.edu">gballa@andrew.cmu.edu</a>
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Christine Sundry	Associate Director, Career Services	<a href="mailto:christinesundry@cmu.edu">christinesundry@cmu.edu</a>

### 4. AIM Curriculum

It is the student's responsibility to know and understand the policies contained in this AIM Handbook Addendum, the Heinz College Handbook, and the CMU Graduate Student Handbook. All three combined cover the CMU university policies and procedures along with specific Heinz College policies.

The curriculum of our Master of Science in AI Systems Management (AIM) program positions students to become leading AI specialists through programming, statistics, and exposure to advanced AI topics.

As a full-time graduate student, you will normally complete the AIM program in three semesters. Note, the AIM program is not offered part-time. Students admitted to the 12-month AIM Program will complete 144 units in three semesters.

In order to successfully complete the AIM program, you must complete the following:

- all required courses (unless you exempt them); and
- all other standards for graduation, including meeting the minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0, and meeting the minimum total number of units taken over three semesters.

## 4.1. Required Courses

The following table lists all the required core courses AIM students must complete.

*AIM Program: 132 units (core) and 12-30 units (electives)		
<i>Course Number</i>	<i>Course Title</i>	<i>Units</i>
95-891	Introduction to Artificial Intelligence	12
95-888	Data Focused Python	6
95-796	Statistics for IT Managers	6
94-804	AI Strategy	6
94-700	Organizational Design and Implementation	6
95-815	Data Engineering	6
94-879	Operationalizing AI	6
95-897	Machine Learning Technologies	6
95-762	Decision Modeling	6
95-864	AI Model Development	6
94-815	Agentic Technologies	6
94-844	Generative AI Lab	6
95-767	Cybersecurity for AI & ML	6
95-724	AI Communication Strategies	12
94-885	Responsible AI	6
95-720	AI Capstone Project	18
95-728	Financial Evaluation of AI	6
95-731	AI Cloud and DevOps	6

\* The course titles, descriptions, and content are subject to revision as the industry and technology evolve. As this is a new program, the curriculum is being actively refined to better serve students and align with emerging trends in the field.

## 4.2. Elective Options

The following is a sample of general electives. Students are not limited to these options and may choose other relevant courses across the university to fulfill their elective requirement.

94-829	Advanced AI Enterprise Strategy	6 units
94-816	Generative AI: Applications, Implications, and Governance	6 units
94-881	Managing Analytics Projects	6 units
95-851	Making Products Count: Data Science for Product Managers	6 units
95-819	A/B Testing, Design and Analysis	6 units

95-869	Big Data and Large-Scale Computing	6 units
95-874	Agile Methods	6 units
17-737	Artificial Intelligence for Social Good	12 units
45-848	Ethics and Artificial Intelligence	6 units

To fulfill the elective requirements for graduation, you may take relevant graduate-level courses outside of Heinz College. **Up to 36 units** of courses outside of Heinz College may be counted towards the AIM degree requirements.

Language (Spanish, French, etc.), Music (piano, violin, voice, etc.), and Physical Education (golf, dance, etc.) coursework will not count as general electives towards the AIM degree requirements.

Students may count no more than 12 units of undergraduate coursework as general electives towards the AIM degree requirements. Undergraduate units will count against the 36 unit cap (described above) of courses taken outside Heinz College. Students who wish to take an undergraduate elective class **MUST** submit a general petition to their Academic Advisor and receive approval for the course to count towards the degree prior to the start of the class. Generally, only upper division classes will be considered. If the student receives a grade of B or better, the units will count toward the degree, but the grade will not be factored into the student's Heinz College quality point average (QPA).

Please be aware that even with approval to count an undergraduate course for the degree, on the official CMU transcript undergraduate courses will not count towards the units earned or the QPA. If a course is cross-listed as both an undergraduate and graduate course, make sure to enroll in the graduate course to receive credit towards your degree requirements.

## 5. Number of Units per Semester

### 5.1. Normal Courseload Expectation for AIM Students

Students typically take between 48 – 54 units per semester, with a maximum of 54 units per semester. For the AIM program, completing 48 units per semester meets the degree requirement of 144 units total.

## 5.2. Unit Increase Policy

Students who feel prepared to take on additional academic challenges beyond the standard course load may request a unit increase. They can do so by submitting a [General Petition Form](#), available on the Heinz College Current Student Website, to their Academic Advisor.

### 5.2.1. Requirements

Students demonstrating strong academic performance with a **3.5 Cumulative Quality Point Average (CQPA)** or higher may request for advisor approval to increase to 60 units. Any increase requests above 60 units will require additional approvals and are not guaranteed. Please contact your Academic Advisor.

Students who need to retake a course may be approved for a unit increase in order to make up the course and stay on track for graduation, regardless of their CQPA.

### 5.2.2. Unit Increase Timeline

First-semester students may request a unit increase only if they apply for and are selected to participate in 90-700 Heinz Journal, which is worth 3 units.

Unit increases for a student's second semester will only be processed after their first mini grades are posted and the students have achieved the 3.5 CQPA requirement.

For future semesters, students who are at or above a CQPA of 3.5 can have their unit increase approved after their mini grades are posted and the increase will go into effect the week after registration.

## 6. Capstone Projects

The AIM program Capstone Project is designed to capture the essence of knowledge gained by the students from the coursework and apply it towards research or new application initiatives. The project will be team-based, working in close collaboration with a real-world client. Heinz College sources these clients (businesses, governments, and startups) to find projects that benefit both students and the client. The ideal project forces students to expand beyond their comfort zone, work with imperfect data, learn to work in a group setting, and apply the skills they acquired in class to an actual business challenge.