

AI Integration and Readiness

Central Connecticut State University Consultant Recommendations Report

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Executive Summary

Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) stands at a pivotal moment in shaping how artificial intelligence (AI) enhances learning, teaching, and institutional readiness. Stakeholders across the university—students, faculty, and administrators—recognize both the potential and the responsibility that accompany AI adoption.

Students express a nuanced awareness of the technology’s ethical boundaries and emotional implications. Faculty seek discipline-specific strategies rather than one-size-fits-all training. Administration sees AI as an opportunity to advance institutional efficiency, career preparation, and innovation at scale.

This report outlines actionable recommendations to align these perspectives, enabling CCSU to cultivate an academic culture that is critical, creative, and future-ready.

Key Insights – Student Perspectives

Students demonstrate strong digital self-awareness:

- Use AI in healthy and balanced ways
- Protect personal data and privacy
- Avoid overuse in social settings
- Maintain responsibility and effort in learning
- Recognize connections between AI use, procrastination, and emotional wellbeing

Students are not rejecting AI—they are calling for guided, responsible integration supported by academic and emotional scaffolding.

Key Insights – Faculty Perspectives

Faculty view AI adoption as a continuum and emphasize the need for:

- Department-specific training
- Discipline-relevant use cases
- Safe spaces for experimentation and learning

Effective adoption depends on customized professional development and support structures.

Key Insights – Administrative Perspectives

Administration recognizes:

- Opportunities to scale innovation
- The importance of job readiness
- The need for coordinated institutional strategy

Leadership is prepared to act but requires structured and ethical implementation approaches.

Strategic Recommendations

1. Develop a CCSU “White Label” AI Platform
 - Provide a secure, institution-branded AI environment
 - Embed ethics and data privacy safeguards
2. Empower Student Involvement
 - Establish a Student AI Advisory Council
 - Support student-led research and presentations
3. Launch Department-Specific AI Training
 - Tailor training to disciplines
 - Encourage collaborative teaching labs
4. Establish a Liberal Arts + AI Pathway
 - Integrate critical thinking with AI literacy
 - Promote interdisciplinary learning
5. Create a Research & Experimentation Hub
 - Fund pilot projects
 - Host symposiums and share findings

Conclusion

CCSU is well-positioned to lead in human-centered AI adoption. By aligning student awareness, faculty expertise, and administrative vision, the university can model responsible and innovative AI integration in higher education.