AI for BUSINESS
STUDENT COMPETITION 2026

Transforming Productivity with Artificial Intelligence

For additional information visit https://ai4biz.uncg.edu/

SCAN ME
Registration

SCAN ME
Submission

📅 **DEADLINE April 5**

🎯 **MAIN EVENT April 10**

🏆 **1ST PLACE**
★ **SUMMER INTERNSHIP** ★
at UNCG ITS
+ Amazon Kindle Paperwhite
sponsored by Spartan Cyber Guardian Academy

2ND PLACE: $75 per team member

3RD PLACE: $50 per team member

Teams: Up to 3 Students | Open to UNCG Undergrad & Graduate Students
Mentor: Dr. Motahareh (Bahar) Pourbehzadi
Submit a 5-minute video demo of an AI solution to your chosen problem

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AI for Business – Student Competition 2026
Transforming Productivity with Artificial Intelligence

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Overview

This competition challenges undergraduate and graduate students from all majors at UNCG to work in small teams of **up to 3 students** and develop innovative AI-driven solutions that enhance business productivity. Participants will explore AI to build products such as **chatbots, decision support tools, and agentic workflows**, and submit a **5-minute demo video** as the final deliverable.

Teams may register for one of two tracks:

1. AI/ML Track

Teams will identify a problem of their choice and develop an AI-powered solution. Projects may leverage machine learning, deep learning, predictive analytics, or generative AI approaches. The primary evaluation criterion is the solution's real-world impact and decision-support value rather than technical complexity alone.

2. Agentic AI Track – Grocery Retail Focus

Teams will design a Single-Agent or Multi-Agent AI solution for a Grocery Retail Business context. Example applications include:

- Agentic dashboards for inventory management
- Grocery waste reduction management
- Dynamic pricing agents
- Executive decision-support systems

Students are encouraged to explore additional high-impact use cases within grocery retail. Projects may incorporate structured datasets (e.g., CSV, databases) or unstructured sources (e.g., PDFs) and may implement Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) approaches. Public datasets from sources such as Kaggle or UCI are permitted.

Teams who sign up for the challenge **are encouraged to show a functional demo**. Submissions must include **at least one AI capability** (LLM, ML model, RAG search, agent workflow, forecasting/classification, etc.), not just automation. **Early-stage ideas are welcome only if you can still demonstrate a functional prototype (even minimal) in the video.**

Signing up

Please use this Form to sign up for the competition.

Challenge Structure

1. Ideation Phase (Week 1)

- Teams identify a problem and plan a solution leveraging AI.
- Prepare a **1-page concept note** outlining the problem, proposed AI application, and expected impact. The concept note is only for the teams internal use.

2. Development Phase (Weeks 2–3)

- Teams refine their ideas with research and basic prototyping (mockups, simulations, or basic AI models).

3. Final Pitch (Week 4)

- **Finalist teams** present their solutions in a **5-minute live pitch**, followed by a Q&A session with a panel of judges.
- Submissions may include a short demo, business impact analysis, and feasibility assessment, but the **submitted video must not exceed 5 minutes**.
- If selected in the top 3, at least one person from a team must present at the April 10th event at UNCG.

Final Submission

Please use this Form to submit your final **demo video**.

Video should include problem → demo → expected impact → tools/models used.

Judging Criteria

- **Innovation & Creativity** – Uniqueness of the AI solution.
- **Business Impact** – Potential to improve productivity, efficiency, and decision-making.
- **Feasibility & Scalability** – Practicality of implementation.
- **Presentation & Communication** – Clarity of ideas and delivery.

Competition Timeline

This is a suggested timeline to ensure you stay on target.

- **By March 9:** Form team and initiate ideation
- **March 9–March 16:** Solution development
- **March 17–April 4:** Final steps and preparation
- **April 5:** Submit your **5-minute demo video** for internal judging (top 3 teams selected)
- **April 10:** Live Q&A and presentations by finalists

Awards and Incentives

Certificates for all participants + special certificates and prize money for winners:

🥇 1st Place –**Summer internship opportunity at UNCG Information Technology Services** + **Amazon Kindle Whitepaper** + networking with industry leaders

🥈 2nd Place – **$75 per team member**

🥉 3rd Place – **$50 per team member**

All participating students will receive a discount code to have their registration fee waived for the **AI for Business Event**.

🚀 🗓 **Deadline for Project Submission: April 5th**

🧑‍🚀 Mentor: **Dr. Motahareh (Bahar) Pourbehzadi & Dr. Al Salam**

📩 Questions: **M_POURBEHZA@UNCG.EDU** & **AMSALAM@uncg.edu**

Let's shape the future of AI together! 🌍 💡