CAREER PROFILE: NEXT LEVEL TECH

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Engineer

AI engineers design, build, and improve artificial intelligence (AI) systems that can learn, solve problems, and make decisions. They create the technology behind tools like virtual assistants, chatbots, recommendation systems, self-driving cars, robots, and medical diagnostic software. AI is a rapidly growing field with AI engineers working in a wide range of industries.

School to Career Pathway

To become an AI engineer:

- Build a foundation in math, programming, statistics, and science, including Python.
- Gain hands-on experience through coding projects, robotics, internships, or AI competitions.
- Earn a bachelor's degree in computer science, AI, software engineering, data science, or a related field

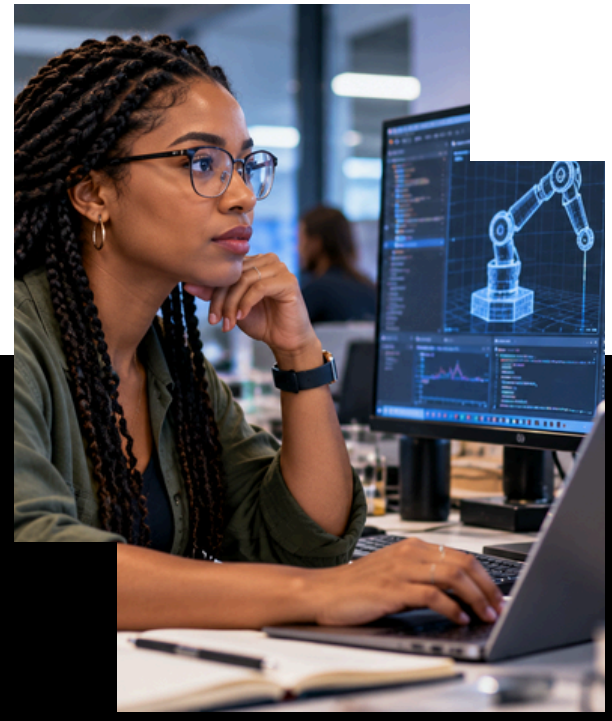
Durable Skills

As an AI engineer, you need:

- Problem solving skills to break down complex challenges and develop creative solutions.
- Critical thinking skills to analyze information, evaluate results, and make decisions to improve AI systems.
- Collaboration and communication skills to work effectively with engineers, designers, researchers, and business teams.
- Adaptability to continuously learn new technologies and AI techniques as the field rapidly evolves.

Paycheck Peek

$95.10 hourly, $195,000 annual
*Note that annual wages vary by location (state, city, or work setting)



Core Duties

Develop AI Models
Design and build AI systems that can recognize patterns, make predictions, and perform tasks such as understanding language, identifying images, or recommending products.

Train Machine Learning Systems
Use large amounts of data to teach AI models how to improve their accuracy and make better decisions over time.

Test and Improve AI Applications
Evaluate AI systems, fix errors, improve performance, and ensure they work reliably in real-world situations.

Work with Data and Software
Collect, organize, and prepare data while writing computer programs that allow AI systems to function effectively.

Collaborate on AI Projects
Work with software engineers, data scientists, designers, and business teams to create AI-powered products that meet user needs.



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Could This Be Your Thing?

- Do you enjoy math and science, especially when you can use them to solve real-world problems?
- Do you like solving puzzles, spotting patterns, or figuring out how things work?
- Do you enjoy tinkering with technology, building new things, or finding ways to improve everyday tools?
- Are you curious about how computers learn, recognize patterns, and make decisions using AI?
- Do you enjoy working with others to brainstorm ideas, tackle challenges, and create something new?

Explore Similar Career Pathways

- Software Developer
- Data Scientist

Dig Deeper Here

Find out more about all careers at: US Bureau of Labor Statistics Student's Desk

Find out more about AI Careers at:

- A-Z of Careers in AI
- Careers in AI Video Series for Middle School Students
- AI at NASA: Unlocking the Future of Exploration

Find out more about the careers above:

- O*NET Online: Software Developer
- O*Net Online: Data Scientist
- LabXchange: Data Scientist