AI Clinic at UMD

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Do you think AI could help support tasks or decision-making processes in your organization but do not know where to start?

Are you thinking about using a specific AI tool for your organization, but concerned about the risks?

Is your organization using AI in ways that you would like to make more open, explainable, or transparent to the public?

The AI Clinic at UMD

- Our goal at the AI Clinic is to partner with municipalities and small non-profits to explore how AI can support your mission

- We want to meet organizations where they are — providing guidance and support tailored to your current needs, whether it's exploring possibilities, evaluating tools, or responsibly deploying AI

The AI Clinic at UMD

- We are a group of university professors and experts in machine learning, deep learning, generative AI, fairness and transparency analyses, ethics of AI and community-based AI and participatory design. We have experience working with industry and government agencies.

- Funded by the University of Maryland Grand Challenges Grant that "support projects that address emerging societal issues"

AI Clinic as Experiential Learning

- AI Clinic is a semester-long course that provides graduate and undergraduate students with hands-on experience in critically evaluating AI solutions for decision making

- Students receive 7-week training in both the technical and ethical dimensions of AI and apply this knowledge through a 7-week consulting project with a municipality or non-profit

- We are looking for long-term collaborations that can extend over multiple semesters

Partnering with the AI Clinic

- As a partner, you will have the opportunity to propose a problem at the intersection of AI and decision-making, broadly defined.
- The AI Clinic leadership team will meet with you to discuss and refine the problem statement.
- Mixed teams of undergraduate and graduate students will then work on your project, meeting with you twice during the semester to share progress updates and receive feedback.
- By the end of the term, you will receive a final presentation and a comprehensive report summarizing their findings and recommendations.

Scope of Projects

- Intentionally broad:
  - Scoping projects: assessing whether AI could improve a specific decision-making process in your municipality.
  - Tool-focused projects: evaluating the benefits and risks of using a particular AI tool for decision-making.
  - Forensic projects: reviewing an existing AI tool already in use to identify potential risks, biases, or overlooked implications.

Scope of Projects

- "I'm interested in exploring AI or automation tools for a specific challenge/bottleneck in my organization"
- "I'm concerned about using AI (e.g., chatbots) for my organization because I'm not aware of the risks (bias, privacy, public trust)"
- "I would like to incorporate community feedback and oversight into an AI solution I am exploring"
- "I want to make sure that the AI solution is transparent and that I clearly communicate benefits and risk assessments when we deploy the new technology"

Project Outcomes

- Best-practices report
- AI governance or ethical AI guidelines
- Comparative analyses of AI solutions
- Quantitative assessments of the trade-offs between benefits and risks

Interested?

- Send us an email at aiclinic@umd.edu
- We will publish partners and project outcomes in our still-under-construction website aiclinic.umd.edu

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Questions?