

February 20, 2026

University Curriculum Committee
Florida Atlantic University



Dear Committee Members,

On behalf of InfraGard South Florida, I am pleased to offer our strong support for the proposed Bachelor of Science in Artificial Intelligence with Cybersecurity within the College of Engineering and Computer Science.

InfraGard is the FBI's primary partnership with the private sector, dedicated to the protection of U.S. critical infrastructure. Our South Florida chapter includes leaders across financial services, healthcare, energy, transportation, maritime operations, telecommunications, government, and emerging technology sectors. Across all of these industries, we are witnessing a rapidly growing demand for professionals trained at the intersection of artificial intelligence and cybersecurity.

The proposed program appropriately addresses this need by integrating core artificial intelligence coursework with a rigorous cybersecurity curriculum, including foundations of cybersecurity, network and data security, applied cryptography, systems programming, and Artificial Intelligence for Cybersecurity. The inclusion of coursework in trustworthy AI, large language models, deep learning, and secure systems design reflects the evolving threat landscape that organizations are confronting today.

AI is increasingly embedded in security operations centers, threat detection platforms, anomaly detection systems, fraud analytics, and critical infrastructure monitoring environments. At the same time, AI systems themselves present new attack surfaces and vulnerabilities. South Florida's critical infrastructure sectors require graduates who understand both how to build AI-driven systems and how to secure them against adversarial manipulation, model exploitation, data poisoning, and system compromise.

The B.S. in Artificial Intelligence with Cybersecurity is well positioned to produce graduates who can contribute immediately to protecting our region's critical infrastructure and strengthening the national cybersecurity workforce. Programs such as this are essential to maintaining resilience in an increasingly AI-driven threat environment.

InfraGard South Florida strongly supports the approval of this degree program and believes it will serve both regional industry needs and national security priorities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Eric S. Ackerman'.

Eric S. Ackerman, Ph.D.
President
InfraGard South Florida
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