



Global **AI Hackathon** 2026

Core Challenge Guide: AI for Life, Learning & Work

For Undergraduate Students

Build AI solutions for real-world challenges and stronger public systems.

A Global Initiative by the United States Artificial Intelligence Institute (USAI[®])

Hackathon Date: June 14-21, 2026 ||

Overview

USAI[®] Global AI Hackathon 2026 is a fully virtual competition open to **undergraduate students** worldwide. Teams will design, build, and present real-world AI solutions to meaningful challenges, collaborating across borders and showcasing their work to experienced judges.

Students will receive mentor support, curated resources, and structured guidance throughout, making this an accessible and high-impact learning experience for builders of all skill levels and disciplines.

For **undergraduate students**, the hackathon takes place on **June 14–21, 2026**. The College core challenge track: **AI for Life, Learning & Work**, challenges teams to design AI systems that strengthen public infrastructure, support better decision-making, and help institutions serve people more effectively. Solutions are judged on creativity, responsible AI use, and real-world impact, not technical perfection.

College Core Challenge: AI for Life, Learning & Work

AI systems increasingly shape how societies function — from public safety and employment to housing, healthcare, and digital trust.

In this track, graduate teams will design AI systems that protect people, strengthen public infrastructure, and help institutions make better decisions.

Participants will build decision-support systems, simulation tools, or responsible AI infrastructure that address complex societal challenges using open or responsibly generated synthetic data.



Projects in this track emphasize:

- AI reasoning and system design
- Policy and infrastructure thinking
- Responsible use of data
- Real organizational needs

Teams will draw inspiration from real-world nonprofit organizations, public policy institutions, and global research groups.

The goal is not to build a finished product, but to prototype a system that could realistically be piloted by a nonprofit, government agency, or public-interest organization.

Full challenge directions will be revealed during the Hackathon Kickoff.



Challenge Brief 3: Productivity - Build the "Second Brain" for Real Life

Modern life is overloaded with information, difficult tradeoffs, and constant mental switching. People are expected to make high-stakes decisions, organize messy inputs, and move from idea to execution without enough clarity or support.

Solutions in this brief might focus on helping people make better decisions, reduce cognitive overload, or turn complexity into clear next steps. Students are encouraged to think about how AI can help people think better, not just work faster.

Core idea: In this challenge, teams will design AI tools that help people process complexity, navigate important life and work decisions, and move from uncertainty to action.

Inspiration From Organizations Like



Center for Humane Technology



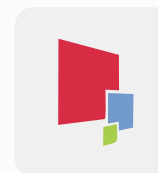
Behavioral Insights Team



Time Well Spent



Wellcome Trust



Digital Promise



Mozilla Foundation

Challenge Brief 4: Public Services - Fix Systems People Depend On

Many essential systems — from benefits and housing to healthcare and emergency support — are still slow, fragmented, and difficult to understand. People often miss help not because it does not exist, but because the system is too hard to navigate.

Solutions in this brief might focus on helping people understand eligibility, find the right next step, or navigate essential services with less confusion and friction. Students are encouraged to think about how AI can make public systems clearer, more accessible, and more human-centered.

Core idea: In this challenge, teams will design AI tools that help people understand and navigate the systems they rely on for support, stability, and essential services.

Inspiration From Organizations Like



Code for America



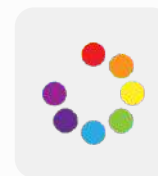
Benefits Data Trust



National Digital Inclusion Alliance



Code for All



mySociety



World Bank Open Data



Direct Relief



Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team

DISCLAIMER: USAI's Global AI Hackathon 2026 is exclusive to students only. Full-time students from any degree or doctoral program are also eligible. Working professionals enrolled in any Degree or Doctoral Programs are not eligible to participate in the competition. Should anyone win the competition (in any category) and be discovered as a working professional, the prize and other benefits will be awarded to the next-best team/s.

About USAII[®]

The United States Artificial Intelligence Institute (USAII[®]) is the world's leading Artificial Intelligence certifications provider for aspiring professionals and leaders at any stage of their career, organizations, institutions, academia, or governments, looking to upskill and reskill their expertise in the ever-evolving Artificial Intelligence domain.

Own the
Under Graduate
Challenge

[Register on Devpost](#)

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