

2026 Advisory Board

February 20, 2026



Agenda

- 9:30 a.m. - Informal Meet and Greet
- 10:00 a.m. – Gianforte Hall Viewing
- 11:00 a.m. – GSoC News and Discussion
- Noon - Catered Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. – Discussion with Students
- 2:00 p.m. – GSoC News and Discussion
- 3:00 p.m. - College of Engineering News and Discussion
with Dean Brett Gunnink
- 4:00 p.m. – Wrap-Up (30 minutes)

I. Students and Curriculum

Degrees Awarded

	Total Degrees Awarded	Bachelor's	M.S.	Ph.D.
AY 2024	125	109 (4 BA)	11	5
AY 2025	133	112 (1 DS, 15 BA)	21 (4 cyber)	2
AY 2026 (Projected)	126	107 (2 DS, 14 BA)	14 (2 cyber)	5

Enrollment Snapshot – Declared Minors

	Total	Declared CS	Declared Data Science
AY 2024	124	51	73
AY 2025	124	54	70
AY 2026	136	58	78

Enrollment Snapshot – Degree Seeking

	Total Students	CS Bachelor's	Data Science B.S.	CS M.S.	Data Science M.S.	Cyber M.S.	CS Ph.D.
Fall 2023	582	526	Not yet offered	27	11	6 (new)	18
Fall 2024	546	469	5 (new)	30	9	7	26
Fall 2025	453	362	19	26	10	6	30

New First-Year Majors

	CS Bachelor's	Data Science B.S.
Fall 2023	135	N/A
Fall 2024	90	2
Fall 2025	53	2

Enrollment Downturn – Reasons Why

- The computing job market continues to be challenging for entry level employees.
- The idea CS is no longer a viable career path due to GenAI is a common storyline in news outlets. Coupled with parental concerns, this has significantly impacted first-year majors.
- Note: The decline in computing enrollments is a nationwide phenomenon. The Computing Research Association (CRA) is conducting a survey to better understand the situation
- Your thoughts?

Enrollment Downturn - Counterpoints

- Although the computing job market is challenging, GenAI will also create many jobs that require computing expertise.
- In the past, downturns (e.g. the dot-com bust, the housing crisis) have been followed by corrections. The long-term trend of demand for students with computing expertise is upwards.
- Your thoughts?

Enrollment Downturn – MSU Strategies

- Gianforte Hall might stimulate interest in computing.
- Artificial Intelligence for Everyone, a no-prerequisite course with “Contemporary Issues in Science” core designation can potentially serve as a gateway to computing majors and minors.
- Our continuing outreach and in-reach events reached more than 7,200 K-12 students in Montana this past year.

- Your thoughts?

II. Personnel and Research

New Personnel

- Charlie Murphy – Spring 2026
- Ph.D. from Princeton in 2023
- Programming Languages, Formal Methods, Automated Reasoning, Logic



Faculty Search

- One tenure-track faculty with AI/ML expertise
 - 210 applications!
 - 4 on-campus interviews: Utah, Penn State, Arizona State, CMU
- Current Situation: 14 TT faculty + 6 NTT faculty

Research Snapshot

Fiscal Year	Expenditures (\$1000s)
2023	\$2266
2024	\$3034
2025	\$3795

Past Year Faculty Recognition

- Sean Yaw: NACOE Excellence in Teaching
- Sean Yaw: MSU Fridley Award for Distinguished Teaching
- Fangtian Zhong: Best Paper Award at IEEE CARS



III. Accreditation Preparation

- Our next review will take place during Fall 2027.

Program Educational Objectives

- Definition: Program educational objectives are broad statements that describe what graduates are expected to attain within a few years after graduation. Program educational objectives are based on the needs of the program's constituencies.

Current Program Educational Objectives

- Our graduates employed in the computing industry will apply principles and practices of computing to successfully meet customer objectives.
- Our graduates employed in the computing industry will communicate effectively, and function successfully in diverse teams.
- Our graduates employed in the computing industry will serve the computing profession, through activities such as involvement in professional organizations.
- Our graduates employed in the computing industry will engage in continuous learning of relevant technological, ethical and societal issues.

IV. Gianforte Hall

- Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
- Time Capsule
- Software Foundry Monetization
- Fall AI Conference



V. General Discussion