UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON TACOMA

Student Technology Fee Committee (STFC)

Annual Allocation Request

Allocation Request Date Information

Date Created: 2026-01-09 10:55:50 Date Due: 2026-01-09 11:59:00 Date Submitted: 2026-01-09 11:25:47

Allocation Request Title/Description

Request Title: Generative AI tools for computing and engineering

Request Description: This proposal requests to purchase Google Workspace for Education Plus to address computing and engineering needs of students at the School of Engineering & Technology.

Allocation Request Information

Department Name:	School of Engineering & Technology	Request Code:	26A0564
Contact Names:	Ka Yee Yeung	UW Tacoma Affiliation:	Faculty
UWT Email Address:	kayee@uw.edu	Phone Number:	253-692-4924
Title of Request:	Generative AI tools for computing and engineering	Type of Request:	One Time

Department Head Approval: ✓ Department Head: Raj Katti

Annual Request Information

1. Background: Review and discuss the context of the proposed technology in detail. Explain how this proposal will be used in conjunction with an original proposal or existing technology. If applicable, how is the current technology disabled or inadequate?

This proposal requests institutional funding to provide equitable, school-wide access to generative AI tools that are becoming increasingly essential for student learning, workforce readiness, and research engagement in the School of Engineering and Technology.

Artificial intelligence (AI) is reshaping education and the computing and engineering disciplines in transformative and unprecedented ways. As of late 2025, approximately 82% of software engineers use AI coding tools weekly, with major companies seeking to hire engineers proficient in AI. Additionally, students in other engineering majors increasingly rely on AI for simulation, automation, coding, and optimization tasks in order to achieve professional readiness. It is estimated that students at SET can acquire these essential skills given appropriate access to AI resources. Existing AI tools provided by UW that are freely available to students include UW Purple, Microsoft 365 Copilot Chat, Canva for Design, Yoodli AI Interview Coach, Zoom AI Companion. However, none of these tools are designed for computing and engineering needs. GitHub Copilot is free for students through the GitHub Student Developer Pack. But other commonly used tools for software development, such as Gemini Advanced from Google, Claude Pro from Anthropic, ChatGPT Plus from OpenAI all require a subscription fee at around $20 per month. These monthly subscription fees impose critical barriers to low-income students to acquire AI proficiency that is essential for engineering students seeking jobs.

This proposal focuses on Google Workspace for Education Plus as a cost-effective, institutionally licensed and administered platform that includes access to Gemini and other generative AI features made available by Google for education users. According to Google's published information for Google Workspace for Education, these services include education-specific privacy protections, including statements that user data is not reviewed by humans or used to train AI models.For $6 annually per student, we can provide full access to the standard $240 Google AI Pro subscription—including 2TB of storage for handling large data—without requiring students to use up their one-time free year eligibility. This package offers a significant upgrade over Microsoft Co-pilot or free tiers, specifically providing the Gemini Pro model, which is effective for real software development even if it sits slightly below ChatGPT 5.2 and Opus 4.5. The primary advantage lies in Gemini's larger context window, which yields more accurate results for research, data analysis, prototyping and writing, combined with tools for graphics and video editing which are state of the art and would be useful for applications outside of code generation.

2. Benefit to Students: Discuss how students have (for returning applicants) or will (for new applicants) benefit from this technology. How will additional funding of the technology benefit students?

Providing access to advanced AI tools for software development and engineering will directly benefit SET students by:

- Enhancing learning and productivity through real-time support for coding, debugging, testing, documentation, and system design in coursework, projects, and research.
- Improving workforce readiness by exposing students to industry-standard AI-assisted development workflows used in internships and full-time engineering roles.
- Supporting higher-level problem solving, allowing students to focus on design, algorithms, and system thinking rather than low-level implementation barriers.
- Promoting equity and access by removing recurring subscription costs that disproportionately affect low-income and first-generation students.

In addition, these tools will support interdisciplinary learning and research by enabling modeling, simulation, data analysis, optimization, cybersecurity analysis, and system integration across Computer Science, IT, and engineering disciplines such as Electrical, Mechanical, Civil Engineering, and Computer Engineering & Systems. Access to state-of-the-art AI-enabled resources will strengthen undergraduate research, graduate projects, and faculty-mentored inquiry, leading to higher-quality technical artifacts and research outcomes.

These AI tools will be integral to students' learning across coursework, team-based projects, and faculty-mentored research. Access to advanced AI capabilities will enhance coding assistance, algorithm design, data analysis, and research workflows, ensuring students develop critical competencies increasingly demanded by employers. This investment will improve learning outcomes while positioning SET programs competitively in a rapidly evolving technological landscape.

Student impact will be informally assessed through course integration, project usage, research outcomes, and observed student engagement with AI-supported learning activities.

3. Access: Describe who will be using or will have access to the resources being proposed. In addition, all previous requestors, please provide historic data highlighting the usage and accessibility of technology. All new requestors, please provide user need data.

The proposed resources will be used by all SET students across multiple programs and degree levels. Licenses will be centrally managed to ensure equitable access across majors, degree levels, and instructional contexts, prioritizing broad student availability rather than limiting access to specific courses or instructors. Enrollment data demonstrates a compelling need for an AI subscription to support both academic success and professional readiness throughout the School of Engineering and Technology (SET). With more than 1,200 students spanning undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education programs, the largest concentrations are in Computer Science (338 undergraduates and 101 graduates) and Information Technology (227 undergraduates and 22 graduates). An additional 303 students are enrolled in Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, and Computer Engineering and Systems. High enrollment in non-major courses served 199 students in Autumn 2025 further underscores the demand. Graduate level programs add another 60 students who would benefit from these AI resources

Total Enrollment (Autumn 2025) is 1250 students including Undergraduate (UG) and Graduate (Grad):

- Computer science 338 UG / 101 Grad
- Information technology 227 UG / 22 Grad
- Mechanical engineering 85
- Electrical & computer engineering 147 UG / 17 Grad
- Civil engineering 54
- Non-/Pre-Major courses 199
- Master of Cybersecurity and Leadership (MCL) 44
- Graduate Certificate for Software Development Engineering 16

4. Timeline: Provide a timeline showing how the proposed technology can be completed during the requested period. Describe when you would like to see this proposal initiated and completed, and why.

This timeline is based on approval by the STF which is likely to take place during the late Winter 2026.

- Purchasing licenses: based on STF finalization in late Spring 2026
- Preparing faculty for the new tools integration Spring 2026
- Distributing licences to students beginning in Summer/Autumn 2026

This timeline allows for minor adjustments based on vendor onboarding requirements while ensuring student access no later than Autumn 2026.

5. Resources/Budget: Discuss available financial, personnel and space resources devoted to the proposed technology and level of support. Proposal must detail all the items/resources requested to be purchased. This includes filling out the Item Detail in next section.

1250 students in SET

60 instructional accounts that support faculty coordinating and merging generative AI into coursework, assignment design, project supervision, and research mentoring, ensuring consistent and responsible use of AI tools across SET curricula.

Total 1310 accounts needed

$6 per Google Education Plus account per year

Pricing is based on publicly available Google Education Plus estimates and will be finalized in coordination with UW IT and Google upon approval to ensure compliance with institutional procurement requirements. Specific AI features and availability are subject to Google's education offerings and may evolve over time.

Funding Request Items

Item	QTY	Cost Per Item	Shipping Fee	Tax Per Item	Subtotal
Google Education Plus	1310	$6.00	$0.00	$0.62	**$8,669.58**
				OVERALL TOTAL:	**$8,669.58**