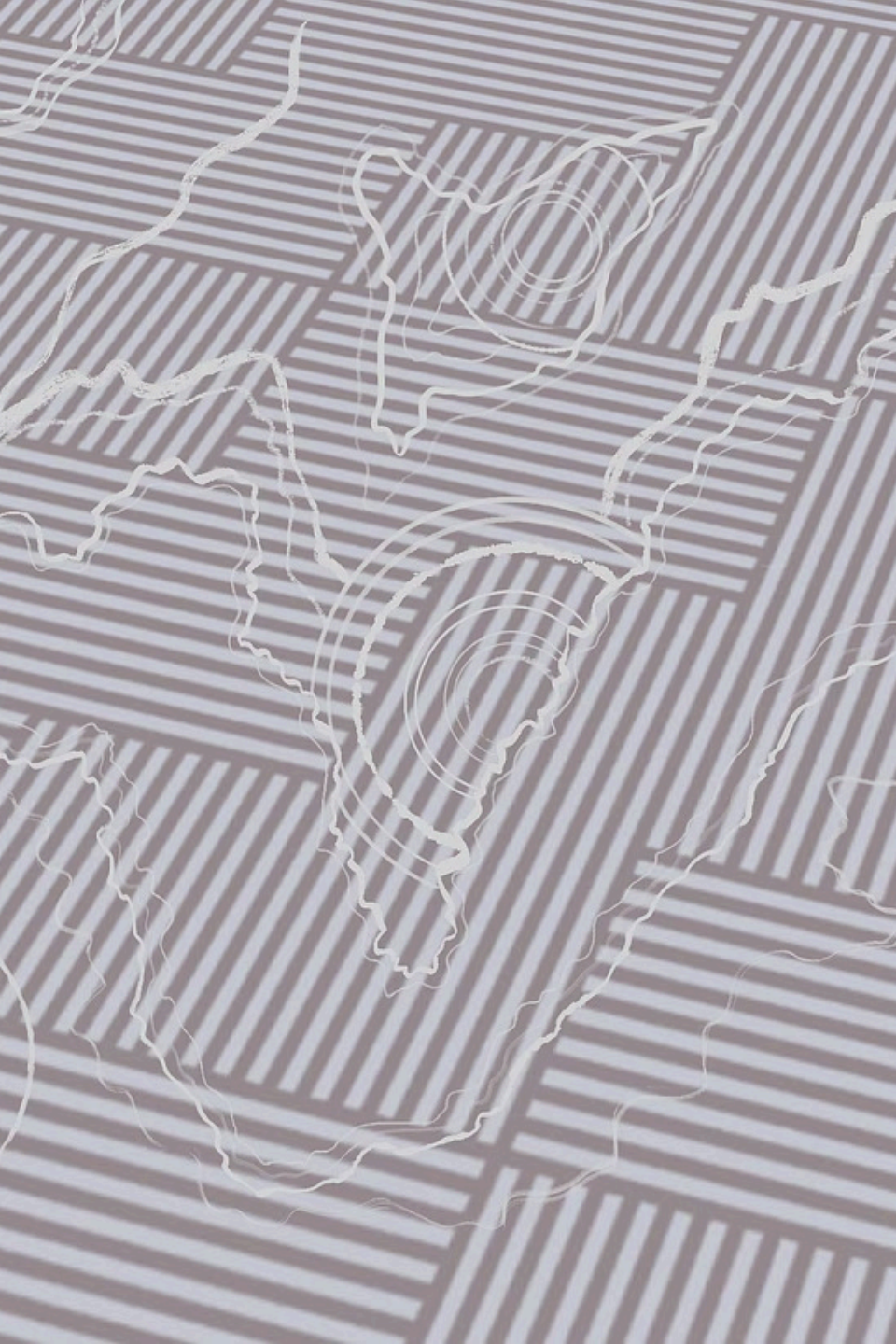




Seven core competencies for AI Professionals

The **Business-Higher Education Forum (BHEF)** identifies seven core competencies that transcend technical specialization , a foundational framework for anyone working in the age of artificial intelligence.

Researched, cultivated, reviewed by agentic tools and humans at:



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COMPETENCY 1 OF 7

AI literacy

A foundational understanding of what AI is — and what it isn't — is essential for every professional operating in today's landscape.

Capabilities & limitations

Knowing what AI systems can and cannot do in real-world contexts.

System types & applications

Familiarity with different AI paradigms and their practical use cases.

Risks & ethics

Awareness of associated risks and ethical considerations in AI deployment.

Data Literacy

In an AI-driven world, the ability to work fluently with data is no longer optional — it is a core professional skill across every industry and function.

Interpret & analyze

Reading data critically to extract meaningful insights and patterns from complex datasets.

Data quality & bias

Understanding how data is collected, where errors arise, and how bias can distort outcomes.

Visualization & communication

Translating findings into clear, compelling visual narratives for diverse audiences.

Why it matters

Data is the raw material of AI. Professionals who can interrogate, validate, and communicate data findings are indispensable to any AI-enabled organization.

Critical thinking & creativity

AI tools are only as powerful as the minds directing them. Critical thinking and creativity ensure that AI outputs are rigorously evaluated and imaginatively applied.



Problem-solving

Structuring complex challenges and identifying where AI can provide meaningful leverage.



Hypothesis generation

Formulating testable ideas and designing experiments to validate or challenge assumptions.



Creative tool application

Applying AI tools in novel, imaginative ways that go beyond conventional use cases.



Rigorous evaluation

Critically assessing AI-generated outputs for accuracy, relevance, and potential blind spots.

Ethics & responsible AI use

As AI systems grow more powerful, the responsibility to deploy them fairly, transparently, and safely becomes a defining professional obligation.



Bias & fairness

Identifying and mitigating algorithmic bias to ensure equitable outcomes across all user groups.



Privacy & security

Protecting sensitive data and ensuring AI systems respect individual rights and confidentiality.



Regulatory compliance

Navigating frameworks including **GDPR**, the **EU AI Act**, and the **NIST AI RMF** to ensure lawful, accountable AI deployment.

 Responsible AI is not a checkbox — it is an ongoing commitment embedded in every stage of design, development, and deployment.

Digital & computational skills

The technical backbone of AI work — from writing code to architecting scalable systems — requires a robust and evolving set of digital competencies.

1

Programming

Proficiency in languages like Python, R, or SQL to build, test, and automate AI workflows.

2

System architecture

Designing robust, scalable AI systems that integrate seamlessly with existing infrastructure.

3

Cloud platforms

Leveraging AWS, Azure, or GCP to deploy and manage AI models at scale.

4

Infrastructure management

Maintaining the compute, storage, and networking resources that power AI systems.



Collaboration & communication

AI professionals rarely work in isolation. The ability to collaborate across functions and communicate complex ideas clearly is what transforms technical expertise into organizational impact.

Cross-functional teamwork

Working effectively with engineers, designers, business leaders, and domain experts to deliver AI solutions that meet real needs.

Stakeholder management

Building trust with decision-makers by aligning AI initiatives with business goals and communicating progress transparently.

Technical communication

Translating complex AI concepts into accessible language for non-technical audiences.

"The best AI professionals are those who can bridge the gap between what the technology can do and what the business actually needs."

COMPETENCY 7 OF 7

Adaptability: Continuous learning mindset, resilience in rapid change, and flexibility across domains.

Researched and validated by Harrierbiz.com agentic tools, final human review, /edit and validation.
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