

ASPPH ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FRAMEWORK: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

The following strategic recommendations are the culmination of the task force's work, providing a tiered roadmap for the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH), its member institutions and the broader public health community. These recommendations are designed to move the field from the current state of fragmented AI adoption to a future characterized by coordinated, ethical and evidence-based leadership.



EDUCATION

Align public health competencies and curriculum with the evolving demands of the AI-enabled workforce.

- **Advocate for Competency Integration:** ASPPH will continue to urge accreditation agencies, such as the [Council on Education for Public Health](#) (CEPH), to embed AI-related competencies — including data literacy, machine learning fundamentals, digital ethics and AI communication — into the foundational MPH knowledge requirements.
- **Modernize Certification Standards:** Recommend that relevant professional certifications, such as the [Certified in Public Health](#) (CPH) exam, begin requiring AI-related content to ensure graduates meet a verified level of competency for the technology-enabled workforce.
- **Close the Classroom-to-Practice Gap:** Establish formal channels to share emerging AI use cases between public health academic programs and practice settings to ensure curricula remain current and aligned with workforce demands.
- **Expand Continuing Education:** Develop specialized continuing education, lifelong learning offerings and training modules in AI for public health graduates and alumni to help the existing workforce align with rapid technological shifts.
- **Encourage Applied AI Skills:** Schools and programs should encourage students to use their integrated learning experiences (e.g., capstones or theses) to highlight relevant AI skills by applying them to solve tangible public health problems.



TEACHING AND LEARNING

Advance training opportunities that promote student engagement while maintaining academic integrity and the human-centered nature of public health education.

- **Promote Responsible and Ethical AI Adoption:** Institutions must prioritize safety, transparency, accountability and equity in the selection and evaluation of all AI tools included in the public health curriculum.
- **Invest in Innovative Learning Technologies:** ASPPH and member schools and programs should prioritize investment in AI-powered simulations, gamified tools and adaptive learning platforms to provide immersive and personalized instruction that prepares students for practice readiness.
- **Strengthen Faculty Preparedness:** Develop updated education for faculty through dedicated workshops and courses focusing on AI literacy, ethics and applied teaching methods. AI literacy expectations for students must not exceed faculty capacity to teach them. Faculty must be equipped to conceptualize AI's potential supporting roles while transparently communicating its risks and ethical limitations to students.
- **Integrate AI Literacy into Curricula:** Formal training on AI use should be intentionally integrated into existing public health curricula, with a specific focus on prompt engineering alongside traditional analytics.
- **Ensure Student Preparedness:** Foster technical literacy and ethical awareness by providing students with exposure to AI tools, followed by critical reflection on their use and limitations.



PRACTICE AND RESEARCH

Foster a new class of public health professionals and a research environment characterized by transparency and community trust.

- **Formalize the “Bridge Professional”:** Academic programs should develop a new role and corresponding curriculum for the strategic thinker with sufficient technical understanding and implementation skills to communicate effectively across technical, C-suite and community realms.
- **Prioritize Human-Centered AI:** Ensure that AI remains a tool for human decision-makers rather than a replacement for human judgment, particularly in high-stakes areas like relationship building and final decision-making.
- **Commit to Open Science Principles:** Public health research must lead in defining "what good looks like" by sharing code, datasets and evaluation metrics. This is essential for fostering trust, accelerating discovery and mitigating risks of algorithmic bias.
- **Address Inequity Through "Missing Voices Analysis":** Mandate the use of missing voices analysis to identify underrepresented groups in public health datasets, ensuring demographic and social-determinant diversity is centered in model validation.
- **Support Innovation in Health Promotion and Disease and Injury Prevention:** Contribute to the collaborative development of tools and applications that utilize AI to promote health and optimize service delivery for frontline public health workers.



POLICY, REGULATORY AND ARCHITECTURE

Establish a scalable, resilient and ethical governance framework for AI adoption across the ASPPH network.

- **Develop an ASPPH-Wide AI Policy:** Create a modular policy template focusing on the responsible, ethical and innovative use of AI across education, research and administration, with a strong emphasis on privacy and community engagement frameworks.
- **Ensure Community Trust Through Transparency:** Implement plain-language communication strategies to inform community partners about the purpose and limitations of AI, ensuring they are partners rather than afterthoughts in the adoption process.
- **Adopt Global Standards and Governance Systems:** Align institutional guidelines with proven, effective frameworks such as the ISO/IEC 42001 Artificial intelligence management system and standards set by NIST, WHO and the OECD.
- **Implement Rigorous Oversight Mechanisms:** Develop policies for consistent bias tracking, incident reporting and the identification of misinformation and disinformation generated by AI systems.
- **Establish Clear Disciplinary and Approval Processes:** Create centralized academic misconduct and software procurement processes to ensure that AI use and acquisition undergo appropriate departmental and information technology services (ITS) review.

A Leadership Moment for Academic Public Health

This framework presents AI not as a technology challenge, but as a leadership challenge. Academic public health has navigated transformative moments before. It has adapted to epidemiological revolutions, biomedical innovation, data modernization, and major shifts in population health practice. AI demands a similarly strategic response. ASPPH’s role is not merely to help member institutions keep pace with technological change; it is to help ensure that public health remains one of the sectors shaping what responsible AI becomes.



READ THE FULL FRAMEWORK REPORT

aspph.org/ai-framework-report

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