

# Executive Summary



**AI**CERTs®

AI<sup>+</sup>

Program Director  
- Practitioner™



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# Introduction

The AI+ Program Director Practitioner certification equips you with the skills to design, implement, and oversee AI-driven initiatives across your organization. Through this certification, you build strategic expertise in AI governance, project planning, ethical deployment, and cross-functional coordination, enabling you to confidently shape enterprise-wide AI agendas.

You use this foundation to lead multidisciplinary teams, ensure responsible and compliant AI adoption, and make informed executive-level decisions. The certification prepares you to optimize operations, champion innovation, and guide your organization through successful AI transformation in a structured, impact-focused way.

This certification will cover:

- Foundations of AI for Program Strategy – Introduction
- Identifying AI Opportunities & Use Cases
- Governance & Ethics in AI
- AI Project Lifecycle & Integration
- Data Strategy & Infrastructure for AI
- AI Integration: Build vs Buy vs Partner
- AI Risk Management & Compliance
- AI Tools & Techniques for Project Management
- Leadership in AI
- Scaling AI Initiatives
- Future Trends in AI
- Capstone Project & Presentation

## Certification Prerequisites

- **AI Fundamentals** – Familiarity with core AI and machine learning concepts, terminology, and common use cases.
- **Project Management Experience** – Background in managing projects, timelines, resources, and key stakeholders.
- **Business Strategy Awareness** – Ability to interpret KPIs, link initiatives to business goals, and support strategy execution.
- **Governance & Compliance Knowledge** – Working understanding of data privacy, risk management, and regulatory requirements.
- **Leadership & Change Management** – Comfort leading cross-functional teams and driving organizational change initiatives.

## Who Should Enroll?

- **AI / Digital Transformation Leaders:** Professionals leading AI, data, or digital transformation initiatives who need a structured framework for program-level AI adoption.
- **Program & Project Managers:** Managers overseeing complex, multi-team initiatives who want to scale from project management to AI program leadership.
- **Business & Strategy Leaders:** Directors, GMs, and strategy leaders looking to translate AI opportunities into measurable business outcomes and ROI.
- **Governance, Risk & Compliance Professionals:** Individuals responsible for AI risk, ethics, privacy, or policy who want to operationalize responsible AI at scale.
- **Consultants & Advisors:** Consultants supporting clients on AI transformation and needing an end-to-end blueprint for AI program design and execution

## Certification Goals and Learning Outcomes

- **Identify High-Value AI Opportunities:** Learn to spot impactful use cases, assess feasibility, and build strong business cases aligned with organizational goals.
- **Strengthen AI Program Execution Capabilities:** Develop skills to manage AI lifecycles, evaluate data readiness, and oversee governance for responsible, scalable implementation.
- **Evaluate Vendors and Solution Pathways:** Grasp how to compare build-vs-buy options, assess vendor proposals, and choose solutions that meet strategic and technical requirements.
- **Coordinate Stakeholders and Drive Change:** Apply effective communication and change-management strategies to align teams and support enterprise-wide AI adoption.
- **Ensure Responsible and Compliant AI Deployment:** Equip yourself to address risk, identify bias, and navigate regulatory expectations while delivering measurable AI outcomes.

## The Impact of AI on Modern Program Director Strategies

AI is reshaping how modern Program Directors plan, manage, and scale initiatives by enhancing strategic decision-making, operational efficiency, and cross-functional coordination. With the ability to automate analysis, forecast project risks, and optimize resource allocation, AI has become a critical enabler for leaders aiming to drive successful transformation in complex, fast-moving organizational environments.

The global adoption of AI in leadership and program management mirrors this shift, with North America leading at 28.8%, followed by Asia-Pacific at 25%, and Europe at 24.3%. The United Kingdom is showing strong growth at 14.1%, reflecting its rising investment in AI-supported strategic planning and governance. Meanwhile, Latin America and the Middle East and Africa (MEA) regions each hold 5.4%, highlighting growing regional momentum in adopting AI-enhanced management frameworks.

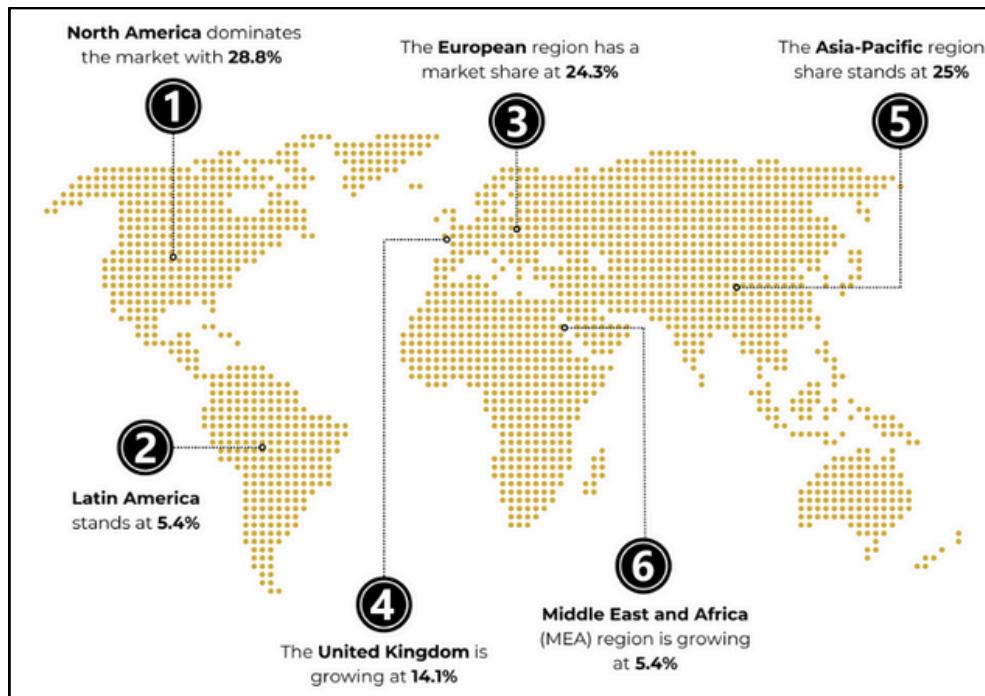


Figure 1: Market Share of AI from a Regional Perspective

These figures illustrate how AI is redefining program leadership—empowering you to make more informed decisions, anticipate risks earlier, align teams more effectively, and scale initiatives with greater confidence. As AI continues to advance, Program Directors who integrate these tools into their strategies will drive stronger outcomes, improved efficiencies, and more resilient organizational transformation

## What is Next for AI?

AI is set to reshape the future of program leadership by enhancing how you plan, govern, and scale complex initiatives. As AI capabilities advance, you will gain smarter forecasting tools, automated risk detection, and real-time insights that strengthen strategic decision-making.

Intelligent systems will support cross-functional coordination, streamline reporting, and dynamically adjust project roadmaps as conditions change. Ethical AI frameworks, adaptive governance models, and AI-driven performance analytics will further elevate your ability to lead large-scale transformation with clarity and precision. With deeper AI integration, the role of a Program Director will become more strategic, data-driven, and future-focused—enabling you to guide organizations through change with greater speed, confidence, and impact.

# How AI is Transforming the Roles and Responsibilities of Program Directors?

AI is reshaping how Program Directors lead, plan, and deliver organizational initiatives. You are now expected to work with intelligent systems that enhance decision-making, streamline operations, and improve visibility across complex programs. As AI becomes embedded in everyday workflows, your role expands from coordinating activities to guiding strategic, data-driven transformation across the enterprise.

Below are a few ways in which AI is transforming the roles and responsibilities of Program Directors:

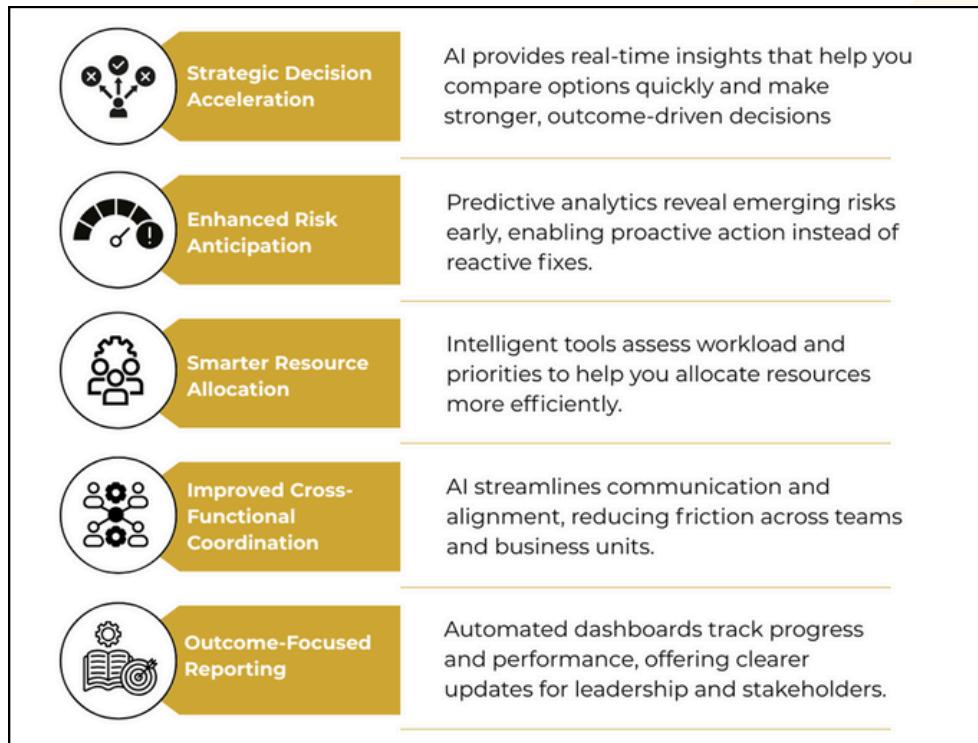


Figure 2: Exploring How AI Transforms the Roles and Responsibilities of Program Directors

AI is elevating the role of Program Directors from operational oversight to strategic leadership. By embracing these capabilities, you can drive greater impact, deliver programs more efficiently, and accelerate organizational transformation with confidence.

# How AI Addresses Current Challenges for Program Directors?

Program Directors are being asked to deliver more—faster timelines, tighter budgets, higher learner expectations, and stricter compliance—often with the same (or smaller) teams. AI is helping by taking the load off repetitive coordination work, turning scattered program data into clear decisions, and enabling more personalized, measurable delivery at scale—so directors can spend more time on outcomes and stakeholder alignment.

Below are six key challenges that Program Directors face and how AI addresses them:

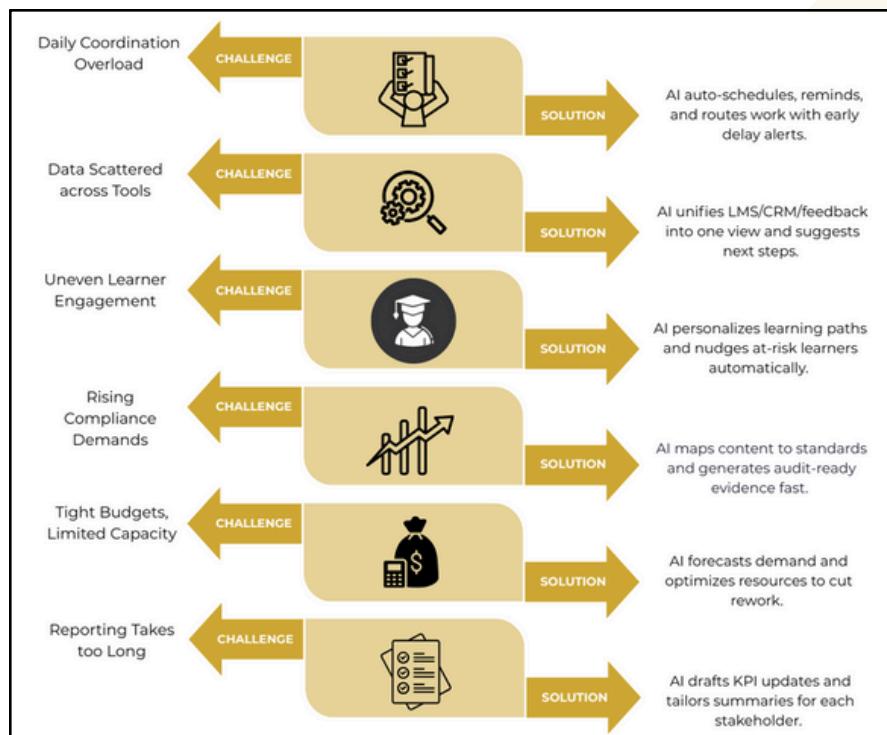


Figure 3: AI Addressing Current Challenges for Program Directors

With AI handling the operational noise, Program Directors can run tighter, more responsive programs without burning out their teams. The biggest win isn't automation alone—it's clearer visibility, faster course-correction, and more consistent outcomes at scale.

## How are Program Directors Adopting AI?

Program Directors are increasingly adopting AI to modernize how programs are planned, delivered, and measured. By embedding AI into daily operations, they are reducing manual coordination, improving visibility across learning and delivery systems, and making faster, data-informed decisions. AI-powered tools support real-time tracking of learner progress, resource utilization, and program risks, enabling proactive intervention rather than reactive fixes. Program leaders are also leveraging AI to personalize learner journeys, streamline compliance reporting, and align outcomes with strategic goals. As AI capabilities advance, Program Directors are using it to run more agile, scalable, and outcome-driven programs while focusing their energy on leadership, impact, and continuous improvement.

## How to Integrate AI into Program Director Practices?

Integrating AI into Program Director practices starts with treating it as an operating layer—not a one-off tool—so it improves planning, delivery, and reporting without adding complexity. The goal is to embed AI into existing workflows, set clear governance, and use measurable pilots to scale what works across programs.

Below are key steps to effectively integrate AI into Program Director practices:

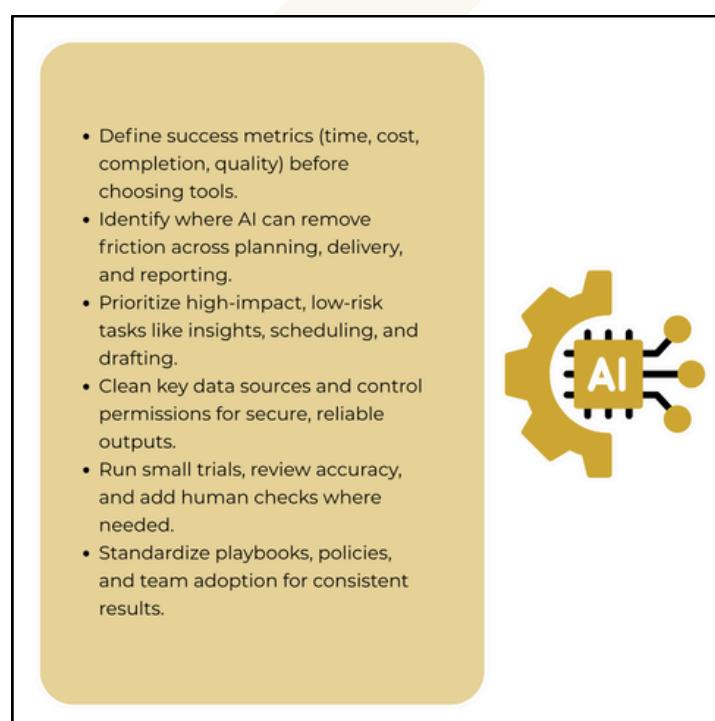


Figure 4: Integrating AI into Program Director Practices

## Module 1: Foundation of AI for Program Strategy - Introduction

As a Program Director, you face pressure to deliver AI-enabled results without writing code yourself. This module gives you the confidence to talk to technical teams, question vendors, and make informed choices about where AI truly adds value. You use it to judge proposals, spot unrealistic claims, and guide projects so that automation, ethics, and impact stay aligned with your program goals.

In this module, you explore core ideas of AI, machine learning, and deep learning, see how AI systems learn from data, and follow the full project lifecycle from data collection to deployment. You review real examples like healthcare triage and retail recommendation engines, examine AI's impact on society and sustainability, and complete a Teachable Machine lab that lets you build and test a simple image classifier yourself.

## Module 2: Identifying AI Opportunities & Use Cases

As a Program Director, you are expected to spot where AI can move the needle instead of chasing hype. This module helps you see which problems are worth solving with AI, avoid low-value experiments, and make confident calls on where to invest time, budget, and stakeholder attention so your AI agenda directly supports organizational goals.

In this module, you work with practical tools like the AI Canvas and the Value vs Feasibility Matrix, learn to spot AI-ready processes such as repetitive work, data-heavy workflows, and personalization needs, and apply prioritization methods like weighted scoring and risk-adjusted ROI. You also explore fraud detection and project management case studies and use Trello in a guided activity to map, score, and rank AI opportunities for your own context.

## Module 3: Governance & Ethics in AI

You work in a space where AI decisions can directly affect people's careers, money, health, and access to services, so getting governance and ethics right is non-negotiable. This module helps you protect your organization from reputational, legal, and societal risk while still unlocking AI's benefits, so you can lead with confidence when questions of bias, fairness, and accountability arise.

In this module, you dive into Responsible AI principles, global governance models like the EU AI Act and NIST AI RMF, and practical tools for spotting and reducing bias across the AI lifecycle. You work with real cases in hiring and credit scoring, apply techniques such as diverse datasets, bias testing, and human-in-the-loop oversight, and use Google's What-If Tool to test fairness scenarios and decide which governance actions you should trigger.

## Module 4: AI Project Lifecycle & Integration

You face growing pressure to turn AI ideas into real outcomes while keeping budgets, risks, and teams aligned. This module helps you run AI projects in a structured way, connect technical work to business goals, and make confident choices about when to build, buy, or partner so you can deliver reliable, explainable AI that actually fits your organization's workflows.

In this module, you follow the CRISP-DM lifecycle from problem definition and data preparation through modeling, evaluation, and deployment. You compare build-vs-buy-vs-partner options using practical decision criteria, explore predictive maintenance use cases with no-code tools, and see how Jira and Asana support timelines, tasks, and governance checkpoints. You also simulate a full AI project in Asana so you can practice orchestrating roles, milestones, and progress across the AI lifecycle.



## Module 5: Data Strategy & Infrastructure for AI

You rely on data to make AI projects work, yet you also carry the risk when that data is messy, siloed, or sensitive. This module helps you treat data as a strategic asset, so you can demand better quality, enforce governance, and make confident choices about privacy, cloud tools, and infrastructure that keep AI reliable and compliant at scale.

In this module, you explore data governance, stewardship, and quality management, learn how to design and run data pipelines on cloud platforms like AWS and Azure, and see how to manage sensitive data using privacy-by-design, anonymization, and federated learning. You also walk through a retail inventory use case, a healthcare privacy case study, and a hands-on Airbyte and Google Sheets lab that lets you build a no-code pipeline for AI-ready data.

## Module 6: AI Integration: Build vs Buy vs Partner

You are frequently asked whether to build AI in-house, license tools, or rely on expert partners—and those choices lock in cost, speed, risk, and future flexibility. This module helps you make those calls with confidence, so you can back your recommendations with clear trade-offs and avoid ad-hoc, vendor-driven decisions that weaken your AI roadmap.

In this module, you explore when to build custom models, when to buy off-the-shelf products, and when to partner with vendors, comparing options on cost, time, expertise, scalability, and risk. You work with evaluation frameworks, scorecards, and a predictive-maintenance case to assess proposals on accuracy, integration effort, support, and long-term fit, then practice using a Google Sheets template to choose the best vendor for a real scenario.

## Module 7: AI Risk Management & Compliance

Working with AI across programs exposes you to legal, ethical, and reputational risk whenever systems touch data, customers, or the public. You need clear ways to spot problems, challenge risky designs, and prove compliance so regulators, leaders, and stakeholders can trust the AI you deploy.

In this module, you explore AI risk management and compliance frameworks such as the EU AI Act, GDPR, and NIST AI RMF, learn how to detect and reduce bias across the AI lifecycle, and practice applying tools like AI Fairness 360, Fairlearn, KNIME, and PAIR Facets to real-world cases in finance, law enforcement, and customer decisioning. You leave with practical checklists, processes, and metrics to keep AI initiatives both innovative and accountable.

## Module 8: AI Tools & Techniques for Project Management

You lead AI initiatives that span data teams, engineers, and business stakeholders, and without the right tools projects easily slip, duplicate effort, or lose visibility. This module helps you run AI work like a repeatable system, so you see who is doing what, where bottlenecks sit, and how timelines, data pipelines, and model iterations stay aligned with business goals.

In this module, you explore AI-focused project management platforms such as Trello, Asana, Monday.com, and Jira, along with cloud data tools including AWS, Azure, and Google Cloud. You work through an AI workflow management case in retail and a guided Asana lab where you design timelines, set milestones, assign tasks, track dependencies, and use dashboards to monitor progress across the full AI lifecycle.

## Module 9: Leadership in AI

You are expected to lead AI initiatives through complexity, conflicting expectations, and constant change, not just approve projects and budgets. This module helps you guide teams through uncertainty, win trust from skeptical stakeholders, and turn AI from isolated pilots into visible wins that strengthen your credibility and move the organization toward responsible, scalable adoption.

In this module, you explore leadership strategies for AI projects, change management techniques, and stakeholder mapping tools such as Miro. You work with communication frameworks, progress dashboards, and storytelling methods tailored to executives, technical teams, and frontline staff, then apply them in a predictive-maintenance manufacturing case and a hands-on stakeholder communication mapping exercise to design your own AI leadership and communication plan.

## Module 10: Scaling AI Initiatives

You are likely running AI pilots that work in one corner of the business but struggle to expand them across regions, teams, and systems. This module helps you move from isolated experiments to organization-wide AI that is reliable, compliant, and aligned with strategy, so your investments scale instead of stalling. You use it to anticipate obstacles in data, infrastructure, and culture before they slow down deployment.

In this module, you explore the shift from pilot to full-scale rollout, study common scaling challenges, and use AI organizational maturity models to assess how ready your company is for enterprise AI. You work through a retail recommendation scaling case, map data, infrastructure, and governance needs, and complete a Lucidchart lab where you build a visual roadmap with phases, milestones, risks, and feedback loops for your own AI initiatives.



## Module 11: Future Trends in AI

You operate in a space where AI is changing faster than most roadmaps, and you're expected to spot what's signal vs noise. This module helps you anticipate where AI is heading, connect future trends to your programs, and make confident calls on where to invest so you don't get locked into short-lived tools or miss high-impact opportunities.

In this module, you explore emerging technologies such as generative AI, edge AI, multi-agent systems, and advanced AI governance tools, then see how they play out in real-world domains like autonomous vehicles and smart mobility. You also work with hands-on demos using platforms like Hugging Face and TensorFlow so you can evaluate, pilot, and communicate next-wave AI possibilities in practical, program-ready terms.

## Module 12: Capstone Project & Presentation

This capstone module gives you the chance to pull everything together and prove you can design and lead a full AI initiative, not just talk about concepts in isolation. You use it to showcase your strategic thinking, decision-making, and communication skills in a setting that closely mirrors how you would pitch and defend an AI roadmap in your own organization.

In this module, you choose a real or hypothetical organization, craft an end-to-end AI strategy using structured templates, and cover opportunity selection, data and governance plans, solution design, and scaling. You then present your proposal, receive peer and instructor feedback, go through a final review against clear criteria, and earn certification that reflects your readiness to drive AI programs in the real world.

## How Can AI CERTs Help Build an AI-Ready Culture?

While AI technologies offer significant advantages, businesses often face challenges like skill gaps, data complexity, and integration difficulties during implementation. At AI CERTs, we provide certifications to empower organizations to tackle these issues effectively and achieve seamless AI integration.

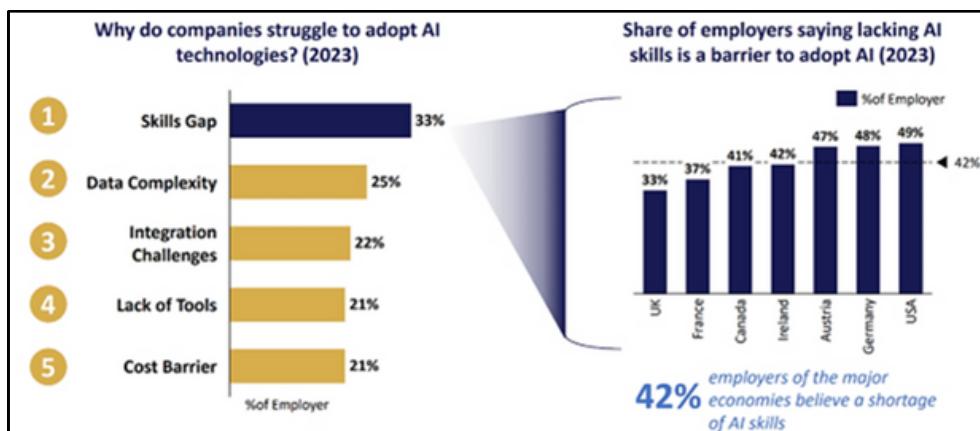


Figure 5: Factors determining the lack of adopting AI Technologies

Source: OCED and IBM

## Bridging the AI Skill Gap

- Challenge:** The adoption of AI in programs often faces hurdles as many professionals struggle to weave AI into planning, delivery, and measurement. Traditional program management relies heavily on manual coordination, fragmented data, and static reporting, making it hard to use AI for decision support, risk management, and personalization. You may be unsure how to work with AI tools to improve visibility, enhance outcomes, and scale initiatives efficiently across stakeholders and teams.
- Solution:** This certification bridges that gap by equipping you to integrate AI into everyday program director practices. You learn how to use AI for forecasting, stakeholder updates, risk alerts, resource planning, and impact analysis. Through hands-on labs and real-world cases, you discover how to brief, question, and guide AI tools using clear prompts so they become practical copilots in your program lifecycle.

- **Benefit:** You gain the confidence to apply AI across your portfolio, enabling faster decisions, sharper insights, and more consistent outcomes. This certification empowers you to lead AI-enabled programs, align cross-functional teams, and stay ahead in a changing landscape by combining your strategic judgment with intelligent automation at scale.

## Empowering Program Directors with AI Skills

- **Challenge:** Many professionals struggle with the rising complexity of managing AI-related programs and the fast pace of technological change. Without AI support, program operations often rely on manual tracking, scattered data, and slow reporting—reducing visibility and delaying decisions. This leads to missed opportunities to automate workflows, anticipate risks, personalize experiences, and improve overall program performance.
- **Solution:** The AI+ Program Director Practitioner Certification equips you with the skills to seamlessly integrate AI into how you plan, deliver, and evaluate programs. You learn to use AI for forecasting, risk detection, resource planning, insights generation, and stakeholder communication—transforming the way you run initiatives. The certification helps you guide AI tools with clear prompts so they enhance accuracy, speed, and strategic decision-making throughout the program lifecycle.
- **Benefit:** By harnessing AI capabilities, you improve efficiency, strengthen outcomes, and accelerate execution across your portfolio. You become equipped to lead AI-enabled programs, drive innovation, and elevate organizational impact—positioning yourself at the forefront of modern program leadership.

**At AI CERTs, we offer a strategic solution, fostering a culture primed for AI integration and innovation.** Our AI certification offers comprehensive training and industry-recognized credentials, empowering employees to lead your company into an AI-driven future.

## AI CERTs Cultivate AI Culture in Several Ways:

- 1) Our meticulously designed certification equips you with a thorough understanding of AI fundamentals and practical applications, ensuring AI becomes an integral and accessible tool within your organization.
- 2) With a strong focus on lifelong learning, the certification empowers your workforce to stay ahead of emerging AI trends and advancements, enabling your organization to maintain a decisive edge in an ever-competitive landscape.
- 3) The AI CERTs certification not only enhances technical expertise but also fosters interdepartmental collaboration by promoting knowledge sharing and teamwork through cross-functional projects, breaking down silos and paving the way for successful AI integration across all levels of your organization.

## AI CERTs: Your Pathway to Becoming AI-Ready

The future of business belongs to those who harness the power of AI.

**Tailored for Success:** Our certifications are customized to meet individual needs, providing specialized training crafted by industry experts to equip your workforce with the specific skills and knowledge required for critical AI roles.

**Actionable Expertise:** We prioritize hands-on learning through projects and case studies, ensuring your team graduates with the skills and confidence to successfully integrate and utilize AI technology, driving innovation and business benefits.

**Become an AI Leader:** Lead the AI revolution with AI CERTs. Invest in your workforce and join us in fostering an AI-inclusive culture where your team can harness AI's transformative power and lead your organization to success.

## Get Started

Our exhaustive portfolio of AI and Blockchain can help you make future ready

Data & Robotics		AI+ Data™	AI+ Robotics™	AI+ Quantum™	AI+ Business Intelligence™	AI+ Quality Assurance™
Development		AI+ Developer™	AI+ Engineer™	AI+ Prompt Engineer Level 2™	AI+ Telecommunications™	
Security		AI+ Security Level 1™	AI+ Security Level 2™	AI+ Security Level 3™	AI+ Security Compliance™	AI+ Ethical Hacker™
Blockchain & Bitcoin		AI+ Cloud™	AI+ Architect™			
Essentials		AI+ Executive™	AI+ Prompt Engineer Level 1™	AI+ Everyone™	AI+ Foundation™	
Business		AI+ Project Manager™	AI+ Marketing™	AI+ Sales™	AI+ Customer Service™	AI+ Writer™
Design & Creative		AI+ UX Designer™	AI+ Design™			AI+ Supply Chain™
Learning & Education		AI+ Educator™	AI+ Learning & Development™			
Specialization		AI+ Healthcare™	AI+ Government™	AI+ Policy Maker™		

For more details visit: [AI CERTs](https://www.aicerts.com)



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