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Southern Methodist University (SMU) seeks a visionary scholar to lead our groundbreaking initiative in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Ethics. Over the past several years, SMU has been actively developing a big-data ecosystem, supported by next-generation research computing technology, to engage the disciplines across campus from physics to art, engineering to history, and business to education, in the pursuit of leading-edge research with impact.

7 K 6 F X U O R F N R Q R D O S V W Z R H X C I R Z H A G professorships, reports directly to the Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and represents our commitment to bringing an ethical and humanistic analysis to bear on the future of AI. We see this chair as an opportunity to expand our impact across both the artificial intelligence and ethics domains, and to bring to campus a world-renowned scholar who will contribute to, and expand upon, the robust work that is already taking place on campus in ways that benefit faculty, staff, students and the broader community.

Position Overview

We are at a pivotal moment in human history, where artificial intelligence is reshaping the fabric of society. Our university seeks a thought leader who will bridge the technological frontier with human values, ethics, and societal needs. The successful candidate will help to shape vital conversations across academic, political, and policy discourses that guide societal understanding of how AI can augment and enhance human capability while preserving the essence of human creativity, decision-making, and social connection.

The role of the Scurlock Chair is to be a leading advocate for ethics in the national and international community. Certainly, we recognize the need for human-centered influence in the development of AI to ensure that technology serves human needs and values.

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to the development of values literacy in AI programming or the protection of human rights. In governance, the issues may include maintaining transparency in decision making, data and privacy concerns, responsible innovation, and equity and access concerns. In applied ethics, the practical implementation of AI might include governance standards, policy oversight and ethical guidelines for AI deployment. We welcome applications from any recognized area of study.

Qualifications

SMU is seeking an active researcher in the area of ethics with a research emphasis in Artificial Intelligence (AI) with an earned Ph.D. in ethics or a closely related field, or an equivalent terminal degree. Candidates must be at the rank of full professor in their



discipline or be at an associate rank with the potential to earn full professor. We are open to any AI research specialization, as we recognize that expertise in AI may come from a wide scope of perspectives. Additionally, the candidates should have:

- Demonstrated excellence in bridging technological innovation with human-centered approaches.
- Track record of interdisciplinary collaboration spanning technical and humanistic domains.
- Understanding of AI applications to collaborate on fundable grant opportunities
- Proven ability to engage with questions of ethics, equity, and social impact in technological advancement.
- Strong commitment to mentoring the next generation of thoughtful technology leaders.
- \$Q LQWHUHVW LQ DQG SDVVLRQ IRU SDUWQHULQJ ZLWK foundations, and municipal governments on matters affecting the DFW metroplex

The Ideal Candidate Will Possess

- Vision for preserving human agency in an increasingly automated world.
- Commitment to equity and inclusion in technological advancement.
- Capability and proven history of contributing to current discourse as a public intellectual who brings issues in ethics and AI into contact with concerns of everyday life.
- Passion for nurturing human creativity and critical thinking alongside AI literacy.
- Desire to teach AI-related ethics courses in the graduate/undergraduate curriculum.
- Experience in curriculum development that integrates AI literacy with critical thinking and creativity.
- Ability to translate complex technological concepts to diverse audiences.

Our Commitment

- We offer a vibrant intellectual environment where innovation meets reflection, and where technological advancement is guided by human values. Our university is committed to creating a future where AI serves as a tool for human flourishing.
- SMU values cross-disciplinary collaboration. Whether working with our innovative [Pegasus Park](#) project, [21' RQQHOO 'DWD 6FLHQFH DQG 5HVHDUFK](#) Institute, Cary M. Maguire Center for Ethics and Public Responsibility



Maguire Center for Ethics and Public Responsibility was founded as a university-wide initiative for the interdisciplinary exploration of contemporary ethical questions.

Major grant -funded research utilizing AI by SMU faculty and students include:

- SMU is part of a six-institution NSF AI Institute (AI-ENGAGE), which is focused on narrative centered learning environments and has emphasized ethics and AI.
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- Researchers in SEHD are collaborating with Kings College, U. of North Carolina and University of Zambia to add AI to their virtual reality surgery simulation to provide a real-time feedback experience to trainees.
- Supported by an \$18 million DoD contract and NASA grants totaling more than PLOOLRQ (DUWK 6FLHQFH ¶V IDFXOW\ LQ 'HGPDQ & RO universities working to integrate AI into the detection and interpretation of subtle



SMU is nonsectarian in its teaching and committed to academic freedom and open inquiry and serves approximately 7,000 undergraduates and 5,000 graduate students through eight degree-granting schools: Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, Cox School of Business, Lyle School of Engineering, Meadows School of the Arts, Simmons School of Education and Human Development, Dedman School of Law, Perkins School of Theology and Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies. Of 11,000 students, 33% are first-generation college students. 51% of undergraduates and 49% of graduate students are female.

Now in its second century of achievement, SMU is recognized for the ways it supports students, faculty and alumni as they become ethical, enterprising leaders in their fields. The dynamic Center for Global and Professional Studies offers unique learning, research, social and career opportunities that provide a launch pad for global impact.

The FY 2024 operating budget for SMU is \$922 million with its current endowment valued at \$2.2 billion. In 2020 the Moody Foundation made a \$100 million commitment to SMU to establish the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies. This landmark gift helped to shape an ambitious strategic plan and the launch of the comprehensive capital campaign SMU Ignited: Boldly Shaping Tomorrow. Currently, SMU is in the fourth year of this \$1.5 billion capital campaign, with \$1.34B in commitments to date, and with a goal to attract and support outstanding students and faculty, to explore new fields with innovative research empowered by future-facing technologies, and to positively impact Dallas and the world beyond.

SMU is located on 234 acres in the University Park area north of downtown Dallas. Faculty, students, and staff enjoy the cultural, athletic, and recreational opportunities offered by the fourth-

