



**SUMMER
SPRINGBOARD**
Look Inward. Go Upward.

AI LAB: TOOLS FOR TOMORROW

**New student admissions for
Summer 2026 are open.**

2-Week Course

This is a two-week program where you'll focus on one course for the entire duration.



Academic Program Overview

How well can you communicate in the age of intelligent machines?

The future of communication belongs to those who can skillfully leverage AI. Through hands-on workshops, students will experiment with the same tools professionals use in journalism, marketing and content creation, while examining both creative possibilities and ethical challenges.

AI Lab focuses on how artificial intelligence is reshaping storytelling, persuasion and media. Students will learn to prompt effectively, iterate thoughtfully and evaluate outputs critically. They'll explore real-world scenarios involving authorship, fairness and privacy, building the judgment needed to lead in a rapidly evolving digital world.



Excursions

Tentative excursions include visits to local businesses, startups, professionals using AI in creative ways and the UCSB Quantum Lab.

Program Highlights

- Use multiple AI tools (text, image, video) to create original content, demonstrating effective prompting and iterative refinement strategies
- Identify common strengths and limitations of AI outputs, including issues with accuracy, bias and persuasive framing
- Discuss ethical questions surrounding AI use, including concerns about authorship, fairness, privacy and the societal impact of design choices
- Explore how AI systems work at a foundational level and where they're currently used in communication industries

2026 Dates

UC Santa Barbara

- Session 1: July 19 - July 31

Instructors

Nan Wilkenfeld

Nan Wilkenfeld is a communication scholar and industry consultant whose work bridges human creativity and emerging technology. As a doctoral candidate at UCSB, she researches how people collaborate with intelligent machines, from chatbots to wearable robotics, examining power, agency and decision-making in human-AI partnerships. Before entering academia, Nan worked in organizational consulting and leadership development, helping teams use technology to communicate more effectively and innovate responsibly.

Tuition Information:

Residential Students:

- **Includes:** all meals, lodging, excursions, academic course, weekend excursions
- **Excludes:** optional airport pickup and drop off service (available for an additional fee)
- **Price:** \$5,798

Commuter Students:

- **Includes:** lunch, academic course, excursions, programming from 9am to 5pm, Monday-Friday
- **Excludes:** lodging, breakfast, dinner, weekend excursions
 - Weekend excursions can be added on for \$125 per day
- **Price:** \$3,298

Supplements:

- **Application fee:** starting at \$99 (mandatory, non-refundable)
- **Tuition Protection Plan:** Allows for cancellation for any reason up until the day of the program. Click [here](#) for more info.



Course Structure

There are nine 3-hour class sessions over the two-week course. During week one, students have class from 9am-12pm, Monday through Friday. During week two students have class from 9am-12pm Monday through Thursday. Wednesday afternoons are dedicated to additional academic time (excursions, speakers).



Typical Schedule

8AM	Breakfast	
9AM	Academic Course / Commuter Student Arrival	
12PM	Lunch	
1:30PM	Academic Excursions or Recreational Activity	
3:30PM	College Readiness Workshop or True You	
5PM- 6:30PM	Commuter Student Departure	
6PM	Dinner	
7PM	Clubs	
10:30PM	Night Checks	

[More info on Airport Transfer](#)

[More info on Unaccompanied Minor Service](#)

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