



ON POINT INSIGHTS

Navigating higher ed



From the Counselor's Desk...



The world that high schoolers are stepping into feels less predictable than it did even a few years ago. AI, climate change, innovation, and shifting global economies are reshaping careers. This can feel both exciting and unsettling.

Conversations are skirting the question of whether students should study AI.

Here's what I think: One does not always need a degree with "AI" in the title to prepare for an AI-shaped world. Interdisciplinary career pathways can present a strong opportunity for anyone willing to combine an academic interest with data and technology to address evolving industry needs.

Students should not choose a major because it sounds future-proof. The choice should be driven by a genuine curiosity and willingness to study the subject in depth. Those who stand out are the ones who understand where their interests meet the needs of a changing world.

Raise the Bar

Beyond Marks: Building the Skills That Matter

Grades open doors. But they are not the only indicator of what a student's capabilities are.

Universities and employers are increasingly looking for evidence of skills that sit beyond the transcript: the ability to articulate ideas, adapt to unfamiliar situations, collaborate with others, and take ownership of a problem. These skills form the foundation on which academic success, career readiness, and personal growth are built.

Consider someone who built this skill across several formats: explaining current events as a child anchor, addressing larger groups through school leadership, and later sharpening her delivery through debate. The ability to structure arguments and think critically helped her earn a place on the school team for inter-school and international competitions.

But debate did more than strengthen communication. It also built adaptability, collaboration, and the confidence to think under pressure. A judge's question or an opponent's counter forced her to rework an argument on the spot, with no time to prepare a new one. Behind the scenes, the work was deeply collaborative: dividing research, testing rebuttals, challenging each other's assumptions, and building a stronger case together.

AI has made this kind of foundation more important, not less.

This is why profile-building should not be reduced to collecting activities. While choosing any activity, a question to ask is what transferable skills can be built around what a student already enjoys learning. Marks show what a student has achieved so far. The ability to think, communicate, adapt, and lead will shape how far they go next.

AI ENGINEER	AI ETHICS SPECIALIST	AI POLICY ADVISOR
Designs, builds, and deploys intelligent systems that solve real-world problems.	Evaluates AI systems to ensure they are fair, transparent, accountable, and aligned with human values.	Develops policies, regulations, and governance frameworks that guide the responsible development and use of AI.

Spotlight: AI, Ethics & Responsible Technology

Artificial intelligence has become an integral part of everyday decision-making, from healthcare and finance to education, hiring, and even something as mundane as where to eat dinner. With AI becoming increasingly capable, it is giving rise to a whole new spectrum of careers, from designing intelligent systems to shaping the ethical and regulatory frameworks that govern them.

This growing influence has given rise to a distinct career pathway, broadly known as AI Ethics. **AI Ethics Specialists** audit algorithms for bias, transparency, and accountability, while **AI Policy Advisors** work with governments and organizations to develop regulations for responsible AI. These roles suit students interested in technology as well as philosophy, psychology, law, or public policy, where critical thinking and strong communication are as valuable as technical knowledge.

On the other end sits the **AI Engineer**. This route is ideal for students who enjoy building intelligent systems and want ethical principles reflected in code and design. Together, these careers represent two sides of the same field: one shaping how AI should behave, the other building components that drive AI behaviour. University pathways vary widely. Some students study Computer Science or Data Science with policy or philosophy electives, while others begin in Law, Public Policy, Economics, or Psychology before specializing in AI governance.

With AI becoming more deeply integrated into society, professionals who can build intelligent systems, shape their responsible use, and guide the policies that govern them will be among the most sought-after talents of the future.

What's Happening In Higher Ed?

The Big 4

The Big Four continue to evolve as policy, affordability, and student demand reshape international education. In the US, **a proposed four-year limit** on F-1 student stays, **declining international applications at 60% of colleges**, and **changes to federal student loans** are reshaping the student experience, even as universities anticipate smaller incoming classes. In the UK, **international undergraduate applications through UCAS have reached a record high** despite plans to **introduce an international student levy**. Australia, meanwhile, has increased student visa fees again while **maintaining its 2027 international student planning level at 295,000**. Across destinations, Indian students are placing greater emphasis on career outcomes as a **weaker rupee continues to increase the cost of studying abroad**.

Beyond the Big 4

India is emerging as both a destination and a global education provider, with international student enrolment rising 19%, while **IIT Bombay is planning to establish its first overseas campus** in the US. Germany is introducing an **additional pre-visa verification step for Indian master's applicants**. Italy has launched a **€420 million international mobility programme** for schools and **France is expanding initiatives to attract global researchers**. Together, these developments point to growing investment in international education beyond the traditional destinations.



Testimonial

"I really don't have enough words to express our gratitude for everything you did for Navya over the last 2 years. We could have not asked for a better mentor than you . What she has achieved today is a direct result of your guidance and unfiltered support. I'm positive that all this would not have been possible without your encouragement. We really thank you from the bottom of our hearts."

Amit & Priyanka Chopra

Parent

