

MS PATHWAYS TO COMPUTING CONSORTIUM
Membership Agreement
Last updated: December 18, 2024

WHEREAS: this agreement reflects the aspirations of the members of the MS Pathways to Computing Consortium (“the Consortium”) to uphold the expectations for inclusion and participation in the Consortium. This document is not legally binding and is not intended to, and does not create any right, benefit, or trust responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity, by any party hereto, its officers, employees, or agents against any other party, its officers, employees, or agents, nor will any alleged breach of the provisions in this agreement give rise to any cause of action against any party. Nothing in this Agreement obligates any party to commit or transfer any funds, assets, or other resources in support of projects or activities between the parties.

WHEREAS: this agreement stands in perpetuity with the ability to opt out on an annual basis every Fall by the then-current Consortium members to ensure both relevance and continuity. In the event that this agreement is not updated on the anticipated schedule, the most current version of the agreement shall remain the relevant expression of intent among the members.

WHEREAS: notwithstanding any language herein regarding the intended duration of the agreement, this agreement may be terminated at any time by any party upon written notice.

WHEREAS: no party may use the name, logo or trademarks of any other party, nor of any of the party’s employees, agents, or affiliates, in any advertising, promotional or sales literature, or other publicity, public announcement or suggestion of endorsement without that party’s prior written approval.

WHEREAS: the Consortium is a networked community of college and university representatives working together to test, build and scale new pathways into Masters level computer science coursework, with an emphasis on inclusion for learners historically left out of computing.

WHEREAS: each member defines the exact characteristics of their own pathway program, adhering to the principles articulated in this agreement.

WHEREAS: in being a member of the Consortium, members agree to aspire to meet the following expectations:

1. Shared goals and values:

- We desire to design and implement programs that enable individuals from diverse academic backgrounds to obtain a Master of Science in computing and to pursue a career in tech.
- We desire to employ outreach and recruitment strategies designed to reach individuals from groups that have been historically left out of computing and tech, prioritizing invitation and belonging.
- We desire to offer academic support and co-curricular programming that foster students’ confidence and belonging.
- We desire to share our experiences via web sites, social media, articles, convenings and conferences, to motivate other institutions to pursue similar innovations and join the Consortium.

2. Participation in meetings and committees

- The Consortium as a whole will meet twice a year and it is expected that committees will meet
- once a month or every other month as needed.
- Each member institution will designate one or more representatives to the Consortium. Those representatives will ensure that at least one is present at most meetings, completely missing no more than two meetings per year.
- Representatives can be faculty or staff, with preference for individuals who are closely involved in the

relevant MS in computing program and who have reliable access to department or school leadership and/or influence in the design of the pathway program.

- Much of the Consortium's work is achieved through committees which are located on the [Consortium website](#). Each committee will have a designated point of contact and will comprise representatives from at least three Consortium member institutions.
- Each member institution will have representatives participating in at least one committee to advance shared goals as needed and as mutually determined.

3. Shared metrics

- Data collection is essential to monitoring collective progress and measuring any significant change in student diversity.
- On an annual basis, Consortium members agree to submit student and program-level data to the Consortium's host organization, the Center for Inclusive Computing, who will provide analysis and reporting back to the research committee and entire membership.
- The goals of this data collection is to track the collective progress of the group and to incentivize other colleges and universities to join the Consortium.
- Each member's data will be shared and presented by the member in aggregated and de-identified form. The data for all members will then be further aggregated to communicate broad outcomes to measure Consortium progress. This is to ensure that no member institution or learner will ever be identifiable by name or other means.
- Data will be collected annually, with submission timelines and processes determined by the Center for Inclusive Computing.
- Data will be made available to the Research committee for use in collaborative research projects, in line with institutional IRB policies. For publications, please note that sharing program and student data to the consortium results in an acknowledgement, whereas contributing to the actual writing of a consortium paper results in authorship on Consortium publications.

4. Fundraising and Fund Distribution

- When a Consortium member raises funds for their MS pathway program, members aim to engage in reasonable effort coordination. This applies only to fundraising from corporations and foundations and does not apply to fundraising from individual alumni or parents. In no way does this coordination apply to fundraising that does not pertain to the MS pathway program or the Consortium. The goal here is to avoid multiple Consortium members approaching the same funder and creating confusion. Coordination is as simple as sending an email to the Funding Committee with the name of the foundation/company you are approaching to determine any existing relationships and elicit insights the group might offer. But no member shall be prohibited or discouraged from approaching funding corporations or organizations.
- On occasion, members will identify an opportunity to seek funding for shared initiatives (e.g., scholarships, research, field building). These fundraising opportunities will be stewarded by the Proposal Committee. Please note that Northeastern University's Center for Inclusive Computing can receive gifts on behalf of the entire Consortium and distribute funds to participating schools accordingly.
- For funds that are raised and held at Northeastern, the Funding Committee will work in collaboration with the person(s) who helped raise the funding and with the funder(s) to determine the spending plan, and, in the case of scholarships, the methodology for distribution to member institutions.

5. Leadership

Beginning July 2024, the MS Pathways to Computing Consortium is led by a governing Board composed of experienced Consortium members. The members of the Board rotate on a periodic basis. The Center for Inclusive Computing at Northeastern University hosts the Consortium and provides administrative support to ensure the continued operations and expansion of Consortium activities. Current leadership board members are [listed on the Consortium website](#), along with [a document outlining board member responsibilities](#).