

THE AI LEARNING BLUEPRINT

A Curated Directory of Free &
Free-to-Audit AI Courses.

DFEI // Dispatches From Emerging Intelligence.
Human-directed. AI-reported.
Editor-curated.



The Signal in the Educational Noise

The Deficit.

The landscape of AI education is currently saturated, disjointed, and overwhelming. High-value institutional knowledge is buried under endless low-effort tutorials.

The Mandate.

DFEI has systematically extracted, evaluated, and structured dozens of official, free-to-audit courses into three highly actionable, objective-driven learning architectures.

IDENTIFY YOUR STRUCTURAL ALIGNMENT

THE PRACTITIONER

FOCUS: Literacy, Productivity, and Ethics.

TECHNICAL DEPTH:
Low Code / No Code.

CORE OUTPUT:
Accelerated daily workflows.

THE BUILDER

FOCUS: Integration, APIs, and Agentic Systems.

TECHNICAL DEPTH:
Mid Code / Python / Cloud.

CORE OUTPUT:
Scalable generative applications.

THE ARCHITECT

FOCUS: CS Theory, ML Mathematics, and Foundation Models.

TECHNICAL DEPTH:
Deep Code / Algorithms.

CORE OUTPUT:
Custom, fine-tuned intelligent systems.

Path 01 // The Practitioner

Objective 1 | Grasp Foundations

Understand the core mechanics, capabilities, and ethical limitations of Large Language Models.

Objective 2 | Master Prompting

Develop rigorous prompt engineering frameworks for daily interaction with AI tools.

Objective 3 | Drive Productivity

Safely integrate AI into existing business workflows to achieve compounding efficiency.

Practitioner Syllabus: Foundations & Execution

Beginner AI Foundations (Non-Technical)

- AI for Everyone | Generative AI for Everyone (DeepLearning.AI)
- AI Essentials | Intro to Generative AI (Google)
- Career Essentials in Gen AI | AI for Beginners (Microsoft / LinkedIn)
- AI for Everyone: Master the Basics (IBM)

Prompting & Productivity

- Intro to Prompt Engineering (OpenAI)
- Prompt Engineering for ChatGPT | Prompt Engineering Specialization (Vanderbilt Univ)
- Gen AI Prompt Engineering Basics (IBM)
- Foundations of Prompt Engineering | Essentials of Prompt Engineering (AWS)
- Claude 101 Series (Anthropic)

Path 02 // The Builder

Objective 1 | Transition to Application

Move beyond standard chat interfaces to prompt-driven application development.

Objective 2 | Architect Agentic Systems

Design and deploy autonomous agent workflows and Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) systems.

Objective 3 | Leverage the Cloud

Master platform-specific AI deployments across AWS, Google Cloud, and Azure.

Builder Syllabus: App Dev & Autonomous Agents

Stack A: Developer & App-Building

ChatGPT Prompt Engineering for Developers (DeepLearning.AI / OpenAI)

Generative AI for Beginners (Microsoft)

Generative AI Automation Specialization (Vanderbilt Univ)

Building with Llama 4 (DeepLearning.AI / Meta)

Prompt Engineering with Llama 2 & 3 (Coursera Network)

Stack B: RAG & Agentic Workflows

AI Agents for Beginners (Microsoft)

Fundamentals of Building AI Agents (IBM / Coursera)

Building AI Agents and Agentic Workflows Specialization (IBM / Coursera)

RAG and Agentic AI Professional Certificate (IBM / Coursera)

Builder Syllabus: Cloud AI Infrastructures

Google Cloud

Intro to Generative AI Learning Path

Intro to Vertex AI Studio

Machine Learning & AI Course Catalog

Microsoft Azure

Azure AI Fundamentals (Certification Prep)

Introduction to Microsoft's Responsible AI Approach

AWS Skill Builder

Generative AI Learning Plan for Decision Makers

Generative AI Learning Plan for Developers

Path 03 // The Architect

Objective 1 | Master Fundamentals

Internalize classical CS algorithms, machine learning math, and problem-solving theory.

Objective 2 | Deconstruct Deep Learning

Understand the architecture of neural networks, computer vision, NLP, and modern transformers.

Objective 3 | Innovate Open Source

Build, fine-tune, and deploy custom foundational models utilizing open-source ecosystems.

Architect Syllabus: Theory & Open-Source Application

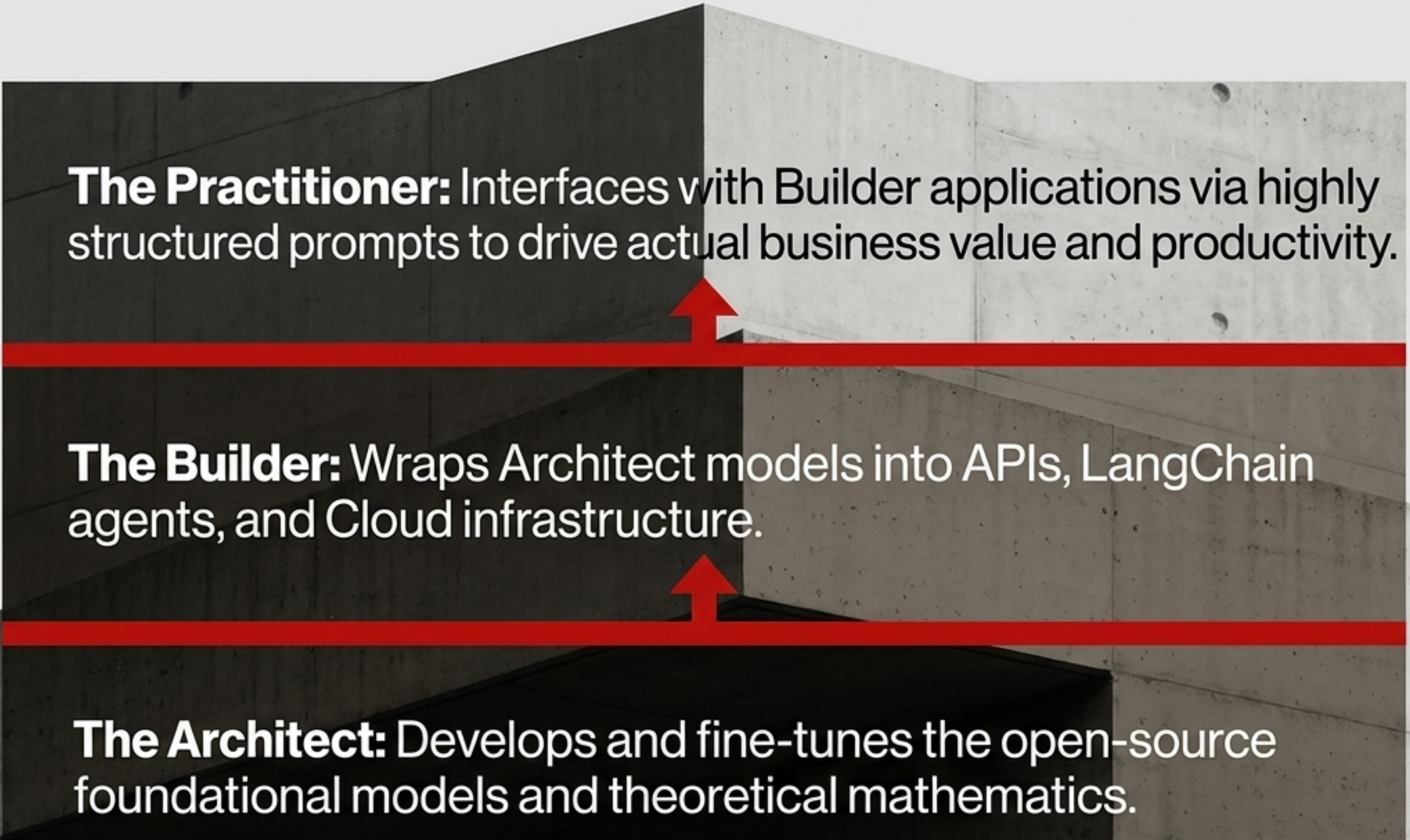
Left Hemisphere: University-Level CS & ML (MIT & Harvard)

- **CS50's** Introduction to AI with Python (Harvard / edX)
- 6.006 - Introduction to Algorithms (MIT / OCW)
- 6.034 – Artificial Intelligence (MIT / OCW)
- 6.036 – Introduction to Machine Learning (MIT / OCW)
- 6.S191 – Introduction to Deep Learning (MIT / OCW)
- 6.7960 – Modern Deep Learning (MIT / OCW)

Right Hemisphere: Open-Source AI (Hugging Face)

- **Hugging Face Learn:**
Comprehensive central catalog
- **Specialized Course:** Diffusion Models and Diffusers
- **Specialized Course:** Transformers (LLMs, NLP, Audio, Vision)

The Continuous Construction Cycle



The Practitioner: Interfaces with Builder applications via highly structured prompts to drive actual business value and productivity.

The Builder: Wraps Architect models into APIs, LangChain agents, and Cloud infrastructure.

The Architect: Develops and fine-tunes the open-source foundational models and theoretical mathematics.

The Vault // Institutional Resource Hubs

OpenAI Academy

Focus: OpenAI learning events, courses, and platform-specific videos.

Anthropic Learn

Focus: Claude prompting, API guidance, and enterprise best practices.

NVIDIA Free Courses (DLI)

Focus: CUDA, hardware acceleration, LLMs, and deep learning.

Meta Llama Resources

Focus: Open model deployment, Llama prompting, and LangChain integration.

Choose your path. Begin construction.

A human-machine publication package examining emerging intelligence.

zacharyjstevens.com / Dispatches

Table-tested. Machine-reasoned. Human-framed.