

UC Berkeley AI Hackathon

H A C K E R ' S G U I D E



Berkeley
SKYDECK

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Introduction

Welcome!

We're thrilled to have you join us at UC Berkeley AI Hackathon this weekend! All of us are super excited to kick off the second iteration of this exciting event, and you all are the driving force behind our event. We want to do everything we can to help you navigate the event; with that said, **please be sure to read through the entire guide!**

This year, UC Berkeley AI Hackathon is taking place in UC Berkeley at ASUC Student Union: Martin Luther King Jr. Building! In this guide, you'll find resources on navigating the surrounding area, and itinerary of the workshops, and events we'll be hosting!

Whether you're an experienced hacker or just beginning your AI journey, this hackathon is the perfect opportunity to develop your skills and build meaningful connections. The UC Berkeley AI Hackathon wouldn't be possible without the support from our community, from our incredible sponsors, judges, mentors, and volunteers; with their support, we're excited to provide you with the resources you need to build out your projects from ideation to reality. We encourage you to check out our workshops, brought to you by our sponsors and Berkeley student organizations, and to reach out to our mentors — there's no better way to discover new ways to build!

What truly makes our events special, though, is **you**. Every hacker brings a wealth of unique experiences and ideas; it's your curiosity, creativity, and love for building that drives us to put on this event. Whether you come to Berkeley with a team or discover one when you arrive, the best ideas are formed from creative minds coming together to build something incredible. The projects that come out of our hackathons never fail to amaze; you inspire us every day to make our events the best it can possibly be. Thank you so much for coming — we can't wait to see what you build.

Happy hacking!

Sincerely,

The Hackathons @ Berkeley Team and Berkeley SkyDeck <3

General Info & Venue

Important Links

Below are some links you may find helpful throughout the event:

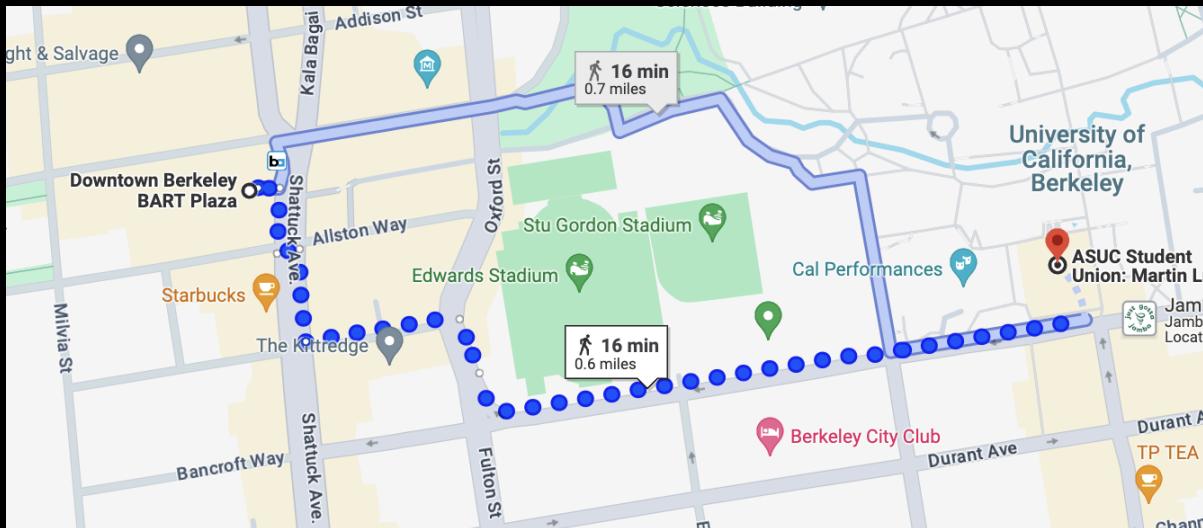
- Live: <https://live.calhacks.io>
- Schedule: <https://live.calhacks.io/#schedule>
- Slack: <https://x.calhacks.io/slack>
- Devpost: <https://uc-berkeley-ai-hackathon-2024.devpost.com>
- Hacker Resources: <https://live.calhacks.io/resources>

Directions & Maps

The UC Berkeley AI Hackathon will take place at:

**ASUC Student Union: Martin Luther King Jr. Building
2495 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, CA 94720**

For accessible entrances, there are usable entrances on the second floor accessed via a ramp from Sproul Plaza, and there are usable entrances on the first floor and basement floor that opens to MLK Student Union Garage.



The nearest BART Station is the Downtown Berkeley BART Station. From there, the 5IB/79/52 buses can take you directly to MLK Student Union.

Food Schedule

Here is a general overview of the food that will be served at the event.
(We will have vegetarian options!)

- Saturday Breakfast: Kingpin Donuts 
- Saturday Lunch: Cancun 
- Saturday Dinner: Costco Pizza 
- Sunday Breakfast: Pastries 
- Sunday Lunch: Crave 

Hacker Checklist

Though we're excited to have you, it is NOT MANDATORY to stay overnight. Feel free to work out your own sleeping arrangements (going to Berkeley, staying with a friend, purchasing a hotel room, etc.) OR *join us overnight in the venue!*

Please note we are **NOT** reimbursing any hotel/travel/overnight expenses.

Items we recommend bringing!

School ID, Gov ID, or Passport
Laptop + Charger
Headphones
Empty Bag for SWAG
Reusable Water Bottle
Earplugs (for sleeping)

Planning on staying the night?

Sleeping Bag/Blanket/Pillow
Toothbrush + Toothpaste
Spare Change of Clothes
Deodorant... pls?

Transportation

BART: The ASUC Student Union: Martin Luther King Jr. Building is conveniently located a 15 minute walk from the **Downtown Berkeley BART station** on Shattuck, and provides transportation across the Bay Area. Check out the [Downtown Berkeley BART station website](#) for more information on the station and BART lines it serves. If you plan on taking the BART, we **highly recommend** planning out your route in advance or traveling with another hacker.

CAR: There are a number of public garages and limited street parking nearby. We cannot provide parking passes.

Hacking

Registration & Team Formation

- Every hacker must be registered to participate!
- Teams can be anywhere between **1-4 people**; no more than 4 people allowed.
- No team? No problem! Hop into the **#team-formation** channel on Slack to find other hackers looking for teammates, and pull up to our in-person team mixer event right after the Opening Ceremony!
- Make sure to add your teammates on Devpost during submission.

Project Submission & Judging

All completed hacker projects must be submitted on **Devpost by 11:00AM**, on Sunday morning. You may continue to hack and edit your submission until **1:00PM**. *Late projects will not be considered for judging, and you MUST be in-person at the venue for the judging period to be eligible for judging.* All projects must be started during the event. Sadly, we disqualify a number of entries every year for violating this rule. Your project should also follow our hacker [Code of Conduct](#).

Judges will visit project teams between **1:00pm to 2:30pm**; this will be your chance to show off the amazing projects you've built! You must stay at your table the entire time! If your entire team is not present while a judge comes, you will not be judged! We recommend preparing a two minute pitch and any answers to possible questions! Hacks will be judged on a variety of factors, including impact, quality, technical complexity (if applicable), and creativity. Our judges know that one day is a short timeframe and that many of our hackers are beginners, so don't feel pressured to create the next BeReal — rather, we love to see projects that creatively attempt to tackle a problem, and care more about the idea behind the project rather the final product.

There will be one Grand Prize winning team, as well as track prizes for Best Climate Tech, Best AI For Good, and Best Use of Intel. Some of our sponsors will also be offering prizes for creative implementation of their products/APIs; check the Tech Prizes section for more information!

Communication

Slack will be your primary source for announcements, mentorship, team formation, and more. Join [here!](#)

- Got a question for mentors? Head to **#ask-mentors** for help!
- Here are some ground rules for Slack:
 - ◆ Ask questions in **#ask-directors**. If it's life-threatening, call 911.
 - ◆ Treat others with kindness! Toxic or hateful messages will not be tolerated, and anyone breaking the Code of Conduct / ground rules will be removed from the hackathon.
 - ◆ Use the search function in **#ask-directors!** Your question may have already been answered!
 - ◆ Use threads when you can to keep relevant topics in one message.

Tech Prizes

Note that these prizes are subject to change.

Track Name	Sponsor	Prize(s)
Grand Prize	Berkeley SkyDeck Fund	\$25K investment funding
Best Use of Intel AI	Intel	<p><u>First place:</u> Lenovo ThinkPad X1 Carbon (\$1500 value) and \$2500 Intel Tiber Developer Cloud credits per team member</p> <p><u>Second place:</u> Sparkle Intel Arc A770 Titan OC Edition (\$320 value) and \$500 Intel Tiber Developer Cloud credits per team member</p> <p><u>Third Place:</u> Sparkle Intel Arc A750 ORC OC Edition (\$240 value) and \$1000 Intel Tiber Developer Cloud credits per team member</p>
AI for Good	Academic Innovation Catalyst	\$25K grants for each of the two winning teams (total of \$50K investment)

SkyDeck Climate Tech Prize	Berkeley SkyDeck Fund	\$25K investment funding to one winning team
Best Overall Generative Application built on Amazon Bedrock	AWS	\$10K in AWS credits
Best Application of Climate Tech built on AWS	AWS	\$5K in AWS credits
Best Application of Responsible AI built with Anthropic's Claude 3 models	AWS	\$5K in AWS credits
Best AI + Education Project	Reach Capital	\$1K cash prize
Best use of Empathic AI integration	Hume	\$1,000 cash + 1,000 Hume API Credits
Most Innovation of Empathic AI integration	Hume	\$500 cash + 500 Hume API Credits
Most Socially Impactful Empathetic AI Integration	Hume	\$500 cash + 500 Hume API Credits
Best use of You.com's APIs	You.com	\$2.5K of You.com API credits per team member
Best Custom Assistant	You.com	1-year free subscription to You.com

Workshops & Entertainment

Workshops

The following workshops will be taking place:

- Kickstart Your Projects with Intel Technology (Intel)
- Build a custom chatbox using ITREX (Intel)
- Fine tune a SoTA LLM in 5 minutes (Intel)
- A low-latency Speech-to-Speech system based on Groq (Groq)
- Build and Deploy Powerful AI Apps with Replit & Mathpix (Reach Capital)
- Intro to Bedrock (AWS)
- Embedding Emotional Intelligence into Applications with Hume (Hume AI)
- Building trusted AI with LLMs (You.com)
- Intro to Full Stack (Cubstart)
- Intro to Transfer Learning and CLIP Demo (Machine Learning @ Berkeley)
- More to be announced on our live site!

Entertainment

The following entertainment events will be taking place:

- Tote Bag Painting
- Big C Morning Hike
- Movie Night

Check out the [schedule](#) for the times and more details. Additionally, keep an eye out for exciting entertainment events happening throughout the weekend such as a VR workshop, movie night and a hike up the Berkeley hills!

Emergency Information

If there is an urgent emergency/immediate threat to life, call 911.

The nearest hospital is Alta Bates Summit Medical Hospital located at **2001 Dwight Way, Berkeley, CA 94704**

We will not be providing any form of medication other than basic first aid in cases of emergencies. Please bring your own medication if you require any.

For immediate hackathon-related emergencies, contact a director through the **#ask-directors** channel on slack. If it's a serious emergency or involves private information, go to the director help desk located on the 2nd floor, across from Goldie's.

For non-urgent situations or questions, seek out a Hackathons @ Berkeley **director** (wearing a blue shirt) or ask in the **#ask-directors** channel on Slack. We'll point you in the right direction!

FAQs

- **Do I need to show up for all 2 days?**

While the hackathon experience is incomplete without attending the entirety of the event, you can arrive late or leave early if you have other commitments. You will need to be in-person for the judging portion of the hackathon!

- **I have a dietary restriction. Will you be able to accommodate?**

We will be offering vegetarian options as a part of our meals! Due to the vast variety of dietary restrictions, however, we are unable to completely account for specific allergies or restrictions. For non-vegetarian hackers, we ask that you avoid grabbing vegetarian meals if possible to ensure vegetarian hackers are able to eat!

- **Are hackers required to stay overnight?**

Nope! Many of our hackers are staying in different nearby hotels or other accommodations. Though staying overnight is a hackathon tradition, do whatever you feel most comfortable with!

- **Will Ddoski (aka. huge teddy bear + our beloved mascot) be there?**

It wouldn't be a Hackathons @ Berkeley event without him.

- **I lost something or found something someone lost, is there a lost and found area to retrieve or deposit it?**

Yes! Come down to the director help desk where directors will be stationed to help you retrieve anything that has been deposited at the desk.

- **Is there wifi at the event?**

Absolutely, the wifi network name is **Berkeley-Visitor** and it does not require a password.

- **Is there a preferred tool or programming language to build my project in?**

Nope! Build whatever you want!

Good Luck &

HAPPY HACKING