

Shikshya Shiwakoti

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Summary

Graduate student in Artificial Intelligence with a 4.0 GPA, passionate about machine learning and committed to developing ethical, transparent, and human-centered AI systems.

Education

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Jan 2025 - Dec 2026

MS in Artificial Intelligence

- GPA: 4.0/4.0 cumulative ([Transcript here ↗](#))

Projects Experience

Adversarial Attack via Knowledge Distillation

Jan 2025 - May 2025

Mentor: [Prof. Raha Moraffah](#) Paper: [here ↗](#)

- Trained a student model via multi-teacher knowledge distillation to generate transferable adversarial examples, achieving 95% PGD success with 6× faster generation than ensemble baselines on CIFAR-10, to improve black-box attack efficiency

Microsoft Academic Graph Information Retrieval for Research Recommendation and Assistance

Sep 2025 - Dec 2025

Mentor: [Prof. Xiaozhong Liu](#) Paper: [here ↗](#)

- Proposed Attention-Based Subgraph Retriever: a GNN-as-retriever model that uses attention pruning to pass a refined subgraph to an LLM for advanced knowledge reasoning.

Nepali Text to Speech Synthesis

July 2022 - May 2023

Mentor: [Suramya Sharma](#) Paper: [here ↗](#)

- Developed Nepali Text-to-Speech (TTS) system by adapting pre-trained English Tacotron2 and WaveGlow models, achieving 3.09 average MOS, leading to improvement in pronunciation accuracy compared to baseline systems under low-resource conditions.

Industry Experience

AI & Automation Intern

Wakefield, MA

[TÜV SÜD America, Inc.](#)

Dec 22, 2025 - present

- Assist in the development and implementation of automation solutions using Microsoft Power Platform (Power Automate, Power BI, SharePoint, Co-Pilot Studio), and build secure LLM models.

AI Specialist (Part Time, On-Campus)

Worcester, MA

[Global Lab, Innovation Studio, WPI](#)

Sep 8, 2025 - present

- Serve as an AI consultant to students, providing guidance on AI tools, particularly open-source frameworks and develop an AI-driven interview simulation using avatars to prepare students for real-world technical interviews.

Data Engineer

Lalitpur, Nepal

[Cedar Gate Technologies](#)

July 2023 - Dec 2024

- Onboarded healthcare datasets from multiple U.S.-based clients, ensuring data integrity and consistency across ingestion pipelines and contributed to the scalable ETL integration framework at Cedar Gate Technologies, a US-based healthcare analytics company with operations in Nepal.

Fellowship Experience

Aspire Teaching Fellow

Worcester, MA

[Worcester/Central MA ASPIRE Regional Collaborative](#)

Feb 2025 - April 2025

- Collaborated with Professor [Prof. Charulata Trivedi](#) at Quinsigamond Community College to co-design inclusive, student-centered learning strategies and delivered a guest lecture focused on active engagement.

Skills

- **Programming Languages:** Python, C#, C++; **ML/DL Frameworks:** TensorFlow, PyTorch, Keras, scikit-learn, Hugging Face; **Databases & Storage:** SQL, Amazon S3; **Visualization:** Tableau, Power BI; **Low-Code Platforms:** Microsoft Power Platform (Power Automate, Power Apps)