

CRAFT Talent Network

1. Overview and Purpose

The CRAFT Talent Network is a curated student database and engagement program operated by the Center for Research toward Advancing Financial Technologies (CRAFT) at Stevens Institute of Technology. The Talent Network is designed to identify, develop, and showcase high-potential students engaged in fintech-related research, education, and professional activities. The Network will be shard with all full/associate level CRAFT industry organizations who may then share it with their HR departments.

The network serves two primary purposes:

- To support students by providing structured opportunities for engagement, recognition, and professional development in fintech and related disciplines.
- To support CRAFT industry members by creating a vetted pipeline of students who have demonstrated sustained participation, commitment, and applied experience through CRAFT activities.

Over time, the CRAFT Talent Network will evolve into a selective, participation-driven credentialing system, culminating in a CRAFT-issued certificate that signals meaningful engagement and readiness for industry collaboration.

2. Eligibility

The CRAFT Talent Network is open to:

- Undergraduate students and Graduate students (Master's and PhD) who have or who now are working on a CRAFT Research Project.
- Undergraduate students and Graduate students (Master's and PhD) who get a recommendation to join by one of CRAFT's affiliate faculty members ([listed here](#)). The faculty member must contact Jesse Lisnow at jlisnow@stevens.edu and CC the student/s they are recommending joining. The link to join the network will then be shared and the students can join.

Eligibility requirements:

- Current or Prior Enrollment at Stevens Institute of Technology or Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- Academic or research interest aligned with fintech, financial engineering, data science, analytics, AI, blockchain, cybersecurity, or related areas
- Faculty endorsement or recommendation (required for students who have not worked directly on a CRAFT project)

The Talent Network is intended to be selective. Admission is based on both student interest and faculty validation.

3. Application and Approval Process

Step 1: Student Application

Students apply to join the CRAFT Talent Network by completing an online application form, which includes:

- Contact Information
- Academic background and program of study
- Areas of interest
- Prior or current involvement with CRAFT (if any)
- Resume and/or short statement of interest

Step 2: Faculty Endorsement

Each application must be endorsed by a CRAFT-affiliated faculty member. Faculty may:

- Recommend students directly, or
- Confirm endorsement after a student submits an application

Step 3: Review and Approval

- Applications are reviewed by CRAFT Operations in consultation with faculty (as needed)
- Approved students are formally added to the CRAFT Talent Network database

4. What Happens After Joining

Once accepted into the CRAFT Talent Network, students:

- Are included in the internal CRAFT Talent Network database
- Receive information about upcoming CRAFT events, workshops, research opportunities, and industry-facing activities
- Begin accumulating participation credits through eligible activities
- Become eligible for tiered recognition and certification based on participation
- Information is shared with full/associate level [CRAFT industry members](#)

Participation data (attendance and involvement) is tracked by CRAFT for internal recordkeeping and reporting.