Industrial Design, MSD

Do you want to broaden your career opportunities in design or academia? If you have previous design education or experience, then this research-based design program is for you.

Program description

Degree awarded: MSD Design (Industrial Design)
The MSD program in industrial design at The Design School is meant for individuals interested in advanced studies in:

- criticism and methodology
- design processes
- history
- human factors
- technology
- theory

Students develop an understanding of contemporary design issues and develop skills by conducting specialized research.

This is a research-based program. Students interested in a studio-based program should refer to the Master of Industrial Design.

At a glance

- College/School: Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts
- Location: Tempe

Degree requirements
36 credit hours and a thesis, or
36 credit hours including the required applied project course (DSC 593)

Students may choose to complete their graduate work by way of a thesis or an applied project. A master's degree thesis is a scholarly endeavor that demonstrates the ability of the author to do supervised research and intellectual writing. The applied project is somewhat different. It includes a project and a written document and is a scholarly endeavor that demonstrates the ability of the designer to do supervised research and present substantial evidence of the ability to apply research creatively to a design situation.

**Admission requirements**

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree in graphic design, industrial design, interior design or a related design discipline from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. portfolio
4. letter of intent
5. resume
6. contact information of two references
7. proof of English proficiency

**Additional Application Information**

An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of English proficiency through either the TOEFL or the IELTS regardless of their current residency. The minimum score for admission to the program is 80 on the TOEFL iBT® taken in a testing center or an overall band score of 6.5 on the IELTS.

When applying for admission to an MSD program, applicants must declare one of the concentrations, such as this concentration in industrial design.
The portfolio, letter of intent, resume and contact information of two references must be submitted via SlideRoom (https://asudesign.slideroom.com/#/Login). The Design School requires that these be submitted in addition to the graduate application requirements.

Admission to the program is selective. Admission cannot be deferred, and students must enroll in the semester for which they are admitted; otherwise, they will need to go through the entire application process again for the year in which they are applying.

A personal interview is not required; however, a candidate wishing to visit the school is welcome and should make arrangements by contacting the department.

Tuition information

When it comes to paying for higher education, everyone's situation is different. Students can learn about ASU tuition and financial aid options to find out which will work best for them.

Application deadlines

Fall

Program learning outcomes

Program learning outcomes identify what a student will learn or be able to do upon completion of their program. This program has the following program outcomes:

- Engage in scholarly field inquiry involving the language and research of industrial design.
- Disseminate the results of their thesis or applied research in a public forum.
- Compose a research proposal that embodies methodologies suitable to the research questions identified.

Career opportunities

Graduates work for global design consultancies, corporate design teams, universities, research institutes and manufacturing companies.

Graduates are also prepared for a career in industrial design education.

Contact information

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