Program Description

Degree Awarded: MS Human Systems Engineering
The MS program in human systems engineering in the Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering provides students with a deep understanding of the science of human performance and experience.

Students learn to use methods and tools that enable them to apply this understanding, to design and problem solve in a wide variety of domains such as product usability, learning design, sports performance, cyber security, human-robot teaming and workplace and patient safety.

A broad range of professions needs experts in human factors to work on problems that involve an understanding of human performance. Students gain real-world experience by tackling projects that examine cutting-edge issues such as cell phones as a source of driver distraction, detection of improvised explosive devices, process optimization in health care and even control of unmanned vehicles.

Interest areas include user experience, aviation human factors, cognitive performance, consumer psychology, transportation human factors, patient safety, effective teamwork, human-robot teaming, health psychology, learning optimization, social cognition, threat detection and sports psychology.

At a Glance

- **College/School:** [Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering](#)
- **Location:** [Polytechnic campus](#) or [Online](#)

Accelerated Program Options

This program allows students to obtain both a bachelor's and master's degree in as little as five years. It is offered as an accelerated bachelor's and master's degree with:
Human Systems Engineering, BS
Human Systems Engineering (User Experience), BS
Industrial and Organizational Psychology, BS

Acceptance to the graduate program requires a separate application. During their junior year, eligible students are advised by their academic departments to apply.

**Degree Requirements**

30 credit hours and a portfolio, or
30 credit hours and a thesis, or
30 credit hours including the required applied project course (HSE 593)

**Required Core (12 credit hours)**
HSE 520 Methods and Tools in Applied Cognitive Science (3)
HSE 530 Intermediate Statistics for Human Systems Engineering (3)
HSE 531 Data Analytics: Modeling Human Subjects Data (3)
HSE 542 Foundations of Human Systems Engineering (3)

**Electives and Research (12-18 credit hours)**

**Culminating Experience (0-6 credit hours)**
HSE 593 Applied Project (6) OR
HSE 599 Thesis (6) OR
portfolio (0)

**Additional Curriculum Information**

Students have the option of doing a thesis (with industry guidance), an applied project to develop and demonstrate professional knowledge and skills, or a portfolio as the culminating experience.

Students selecting the thesis option work on the thesis, under faculty supervision, for at least one calendar year. The first three thesis credits are devoted to developing an idea and preparing a proposal for approval by a faculty committee. The next three credits allow for preparing the details of research design and data collection for the thesis (materials, computer programs, experimental test beds, questionnaires, etc.). The final six credits are devoted to collecting and analyzing data and writing and revising the thesis under the direction of the student's committee chair. Students defend the thesis in an oral examination.

In cases in which a student is engaged in a project initiated by industry, they may opt for the applied project option. Students carry out the applied project, under faculty supervision and guided by industry, in a calendar year in which the 12 credit hours outside of the core are allocated to a combination of research, applied project and report writing appropriate to the goals of the student and the industry partner. In all cases, the project culminates in a substantial written report followed by a comprehensive oral examination covering the project and other materials from required courses.
The portfolio should demonstrate a high level of mastery of the principles and practice of human systems engineering through a compilation of work that the student has completed through the course of their graduate study. While the specific details depend on the student's specialization, all portfolios must describe three notable projects or academic accomplishments that the student has completed through the course of graduate study that illustrate the evolution and advancement of the student's technical expertise and mastery of the field of human systems engineering. Submitted with the portfolio is a written document comprised of an overview of graduate experience and descriptions of the projects presented in the portfolio.

Applied project students take 12 elective credit hours, thesis students take nine elective credit hours plus three credit hours of HSE 592 Research, and portfolio students take 18 elective credits.

**Admission Requirements**

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree in psychology or a related field (including engineering, computer science or business) from a regionally accredited institution.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. statement of purpose describing professional and academic aspirations
4. three letters of recommendation
5. proof of English proficiency

**Additional Application Information**

An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of English proficiency regardless of current residency.

International applicants can find complete information on the English proficiency exams and other required documents on the Polytechnic School website: [https://poly.engineering.asu.edu/hse/ms/](https://poly.engineering.asu.edu/hse/ms/).

The letters of recommendation should be from college professors, employers (in a human factors-related field) or a combination of both academic and professional references.

Applicants to this program generally have completed an undergraduate course in statistics.

Only complete applications are reviewed.
Unofficial transcripts may be submitted at time of application. If admitted, applicants must then submit official transcripts to ASU Graduate Admission Services.

**Application Deadlines**

- **Fall**
- **Spring**

**Career Opportunities**

This master's degree program prepares students for industry and government careers in positions such as:

- game designer
- human factors engineer
- human systems integrator
- information systems designer
- interface designer
- military scientist
- user experience designer
- usability engineer

Graduates may work as a member of a design team for a product or system.

Recent graduates are working at places like Intel, Boeing, GoDaddy, Mayo Clinic, PayPal, Motorola, Google and the Air Force Research Lab. Recipients of this ASU master's degree also have gone on to pursue doctorates at ASU and other prestigious institutions.

**Contact Information**

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