Public Interest Technology, MS

Do you have a passion for ensuring technology and innovation benefit society? Join this unique program and become a leader in examining and using technology for social good, whether in the public or private sector or in nonprofit organizations.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MS Public Interest Technology
The MS program in public interest technology asks this fundamental question: How can technology be used for good? When studying the public interest, it is vital to understand how new technologies pose new challenges and opportunities for society.

Students in this program acquire the ability to work in cross-disciplinary teams and gain a fluency that permeates technology and society issues and solutions. Graduates think analytically, design new systems and processes, and gain exposure to emerging technologies that can make a difference in how government agencies, nongovernment organizations, nonprofits and private companies emphasize social impact. People working in this space ask communities what their needs are first, using a co-design approach to innovation with cultural awareness and values top of mind.

Public interest technology expertise is relevant to all entities who seek to embed the goals of technology assessment, fairness, sustainability and environmental justice in their products and processes.

At a Glance

- College/School: College of Global Futures
- Location: 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:

- Innovation in Society, BA
- Innovation in Society, 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 including an applied project (PIT 593)

**Required Core (12 credit hours)**
- PIT 501 Principles of Public Interest Technology (3)
- PIT 502 Co-designing the Future (3)
- PIT 503 Technology Impact Assessments (3)
- PIT 504 Public Engagement Strategies (3)

**Electives (15 credit hours)**

**Culminating Experience (3 credit hours)**
- PIT 593 Applied Project (3)

**Additional Curriculum Information**

Students should see the academic unit for the current elective course list. The elective list may change over time as new courses become available. Students must meet any prerequisites for the course in order to register for it or receive permission from the Master of Science in public interest technology degree program chair and the instructor of the course.

**Admission Requirements**

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the College of Global Futures.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree in computer science, public administration, engineering, business or marketing or a related field 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 applicants must have 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. professional resume
4. written statement
5. three letters of recommendation
6. 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.

**Attend Online**

**ASU Online**

ASU offers this program in an online format with multiple enrollment sessions throughout the year. Applicants may view the program description and request more information here.

**Application Deadlines**

**Fall**

**Spring**

**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:

- Apply a transdisciplinary approach in the creation of a public interest technology design or development process, and analyze existing public interest technology solutions by applying fundamental principles, theoretical and conceptual frameworks (e.g., co-design) to real-world cases.
- Think critically and evaluate the success or failure of existing sociotechnical systems and make recommendations on how to overcome systemic problems related to justice, equity, diversity, inclusion and fairness, among other human rights dimensions.
- Create and disseminate the results of their public engagements using different forms of communication such as professional report writing and oral communications, employing creative strategies through traditional and emerging online platforms.
- Students will be able to apply a transdisciplinary approach in the creation of a public interest technology design or development process, and analyze existing public interest technology solutions by applying fundamental principles, theoretical and conceptual frameworks (e.g., co-design) to real-world cases.

**Global Opportunities**
Global Experience

Study abroad is possible for graduate students, with more than 50 program opportunities spanning all seven continents. Faculty-directed programs tend to be the best fit for graduate students; taking courses over the summer or during academic breaks with ASU professors offers close mentorship and professional network growth in many fields of study while earning ASU credit. Exchange program participation is also possible with careful planning. Students can find more information on the Global Education website at https://goglobal.asu.edu/students/graduate-students.

Career Opportunities

Graduates of this program are public interest technologists, an emerging domain of expertise. Generally, those completing the degree will become analysts, advisors, assessors, coordinators, policymakers, consultants or managers.

Careers for graduates include telecommunications, information technology, government, education, energy, transport, health care, international global development, standards setting, accountability, oversight and ombudsperson service. Graduates have options to enact change within their workplace using their newly acquired skills and are able to develop ideas for new for-profit and nonprofit startups that are user-centric, collective and community-driven.

Career examples include:

- advisor (solutions, technology impact)
- analyst (policy, data privacy, systems)
- assessor (public interest technology, public health)
- consultant (content strategist, business, safety, user experience)
- coordinator (advocacy, standards)
- manager (data governance, cybersecurity, data privacy, environmental affairs, executive)
- policymaker (human rights, emerging technology)

Contact Information

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