Futures and Design, MS

GFFDMS

Learn theories and practical tools for imagining, making and sharing futures, and apply this knowledge through collaborative projects across multiple media with real-world clients to inspire positive change.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MS Futures and Design
The MS program in futures and design combines future-focused theories and practices, including speculative design, science fiction and foresight studies, to investigate and craft alternative futures. Students learn a range of future-oriented theories and methods used today by organizations --- and invent the theories and methods of tomorrow. Students explore a variety of epistemological perspectives and experiential processes to systematically define complex problems and explore robust strategies of change. In doing so, they diversify their critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Drawing from social theory, innovation studies and design science, the program develops students' capacity to envision new futures across scales of complexity, including objects, platforms, services, organizations and systems. Students work in transdisciplinary teams with real-world partners from industry and the community to produce compelling visions of that future in diverse media.

The Master of Science in futures and design is offered by the transdisciplinary School for the Future of Innovation in Society.

At a Glance

- **College/School:** [College of Global Futures](#)
- **Location:** [ASU at Mesa City Center](#)

Degree Requirements
33 credit hours including the required applied project course (HSD 593)

**Required Core (15 credit hours)**
HDA 581 Emerging Media Colloquium (3)  
HSD 550 Prototyping Futures (3)  
HSD 551 Future-Focused Research Methods (3)  
HSD 552 Worldbuilding and Imagination (3)  
HSD 555 Strategic Design Futures (3)

**Electives (9 credit hours)**

**Other Requirements (3 credit hours)**
DSC 584 Internship (3)  
DSC 590 Reading and Conference (3)  
DSC 592 Research (3)  
HDA 580 Practicum (3)  
HSD 584 Internship (3)  
HSD 590 Reading and Conference (3)  
HSD 592 Research (3)

**Culminating Experience (6 credit hours)**
HSD 593 Applied Project (6)

**Additional Curriculum Information**
Students take the one credit hour course HDA 581 three times to attain a total of three credits for the course.

**Admission Requirements**
Applicants must fulfill the requirement 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 any 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. personal statement
4. professional resume
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.

**Application Deadlines**

Fall
Spring

**Career Opportunities**
There is an increasing demand for professionals who are trained in navigating uncertainty, design thinking and strategically coping with disruptive change --- key skills that graduates of this program are equipped with. In fact, Bain and Associates found that over half the Fortune 500 companies use scenario planning, one of the core methods covered in the program. Harvard Business School has identified "anticipation" as an essential skill of a strategic leader.

Some career examples include:

- director of futures strategy
- futurist
- global trends manager
- growth strategist
- ideation leader
- issues manager
- principal foresight researcher
- strategic planner

**Contact Information**

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Admission Deadlines