

Design, Environment and the Arts, PhD

HIDEAPHD

ASU is not currently accepting applications for this program.

Program description

Degree awarded: PHD Design, Environment and the Arts

The PhD in design, environment and the arts is an individualized, institute-wide, transdisciplinary degree program that integrates graduate courses and faculty research with expertise in design; health care and healing environments; history, theory and criticism; and digital culture in design.

Broad in scope, the program is at the cutting edge of creating new knowledge in architecture, design and the arts. It complements transdisciplinary research in other disciplines within the university. The program provides research experience for students who wish to pursue careers in industry as members of interdisciplinary design teams on environmental and energy issues as well as for those who wish to teach in the architecture, design or the arts fields.

At a glance

- **College/School:** [Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts](#)
- **Location:** [Tempe](#)

Degree requirements

84 credit hours, a written comprehensive exam, an oral comprehensive exam, a prospectus and a dissertation

Up to 30 credit hours from a previously awarded master's degree can count toward the requirements of the doctoral program.

Of the 54 credit hours remaining after the master's degree, 12 must be dissertation credit and 12 may be research. These 24 credit hours plus the remaining 30 credit hours must be completed after admission to

the program. No transfer credits are allowed to fulfill the 54 credit hour minimum requirement completed after admission to the program.

The student is required to take 15 credit hours in the concentration and a minimum of nine credit hours of specialized coursework outside the area of focus; a minimum of six credit hours in current research and research methods is required.

Each student entering the program is required to submit a plan of study during the first year.

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 master's degree in the field of architecture, graphic design, industrial design, interior design, landscape architecture or fine arts 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. three letters of recommendation
4. a statement of purpose summarizing career objectives and the reasons for pursuing doctoral education
5. an indication of proposed area of concentration (design; history, theory and criticism; digital culture in design; or health care and healing environments)
6. an indication of a potential mentor
7. a sample of sole-authored written work in English or any other evidence relevant to admission to the program (i.e., master's degree thesis, research paper or published articles)
8. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information

An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of [English proficiency](#) regardless of their current residency. A TOEFL iBT score of at least 100 or an overall IELTS band score of 7.50, with no individual band below 7.00, is required of all applicants whose native language is not English.

International applicants who are interested in receiving funding as teaching assistants must take the Speaking Proficiency English Assessment Kit, administered at ASU, and become certified. Additional information is available on the department website.

Students are admitted to the program only upon completion of a degree in architecture, graphic design, industrial design, interior design, landscape architecture or fine arts, or upon the demonstration of equivalent standing. Applicants must be familiar with design and the arts and are expected to demonstrate a high level of academic maturity before being admitted to the program.

Applicants must have identified a doctoral program faculty member who has agreed to serve as a mentor. The faculty mentor should be from the Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts. Students should introduce themselves by email to the faculty members who they feel have related research interests and to inquire about their availability to be mentors.

The letters of recommendation preferably would be academic, although they could be professional. Applicants must provide the names and contact information of three recommenders at the time of their online application. Recommenders will receive an email with a link to the online letter of recommendation to complete. Candidates are able to see which recommenders have already completed their recommendation by logging into the My ASU system and viewing their To Do list. Once a recommender has submitted the letter of recommendation, the recommender's name is removed from the To Do list. All letters must be in English.

Applicants should identify a proposed research topic or list of possible topics that aligns with the research mission of the program and the research interests of faculty.

The application is considered incomplete if any of the items is missing.

The doctoral executive committee evaluates the applications and supporting materials. Admission decisions are based on the ability of the potential mentor to devote time to the student; the compatibility of the applicant's career goals with the purpose of the degree program; GRE scores (optional); previous academic training and performance; recommendation letters; and the research mission of the institute and the research interests of faculty. The recommendations of the committee are forwarded to the program director for approval. Upon receipt of the written recommendation from the program director, the dean of the Graduate College notifies all applicants in writing of the admission decision.

ASU does not accept the GRE® General Test at home edition.

Applicants should see the program website for application deadlines.

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.

Contact information

