Design, Environment and the Arts (Design), PhD

Earn your PhD in design, environment and arts at Arizona State University, the university ranked #1 for innovation. A flexible curriculum gives students access to top-notch faculty, courses, studios and laboratories in architecture, industrial design, interior design, landscape architecture, visual communication design, urban design and related disciplines.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: PHD Design, Environment and the Arts (Design)
The PhD program is a flexible, interdisciplinary program that permits designers to develop the experience, skills and framework to become competent researchers, scholars, innovators, visionaries and leaders in the various disciplines of design, environment and the arts. Broad in scope, the program involves interdisciplinary research interests at both the micro- and macro-scales of design, environment and the arts. Research experience prepares students for careers in academia, as well as industry, government or the nonprofit sector. There are opportunities for research specialization in areas such as:

- technology, innovation and entrepreneurship
- sustainability and resilience
- social justice, placemaking and placekeeping
- global health and human factors
- history, culture, theory and philosophy

At a Glance

- College/School: Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts
Degree Requirements

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

Required Core (6 credit hours)
EPD 700 Research Methods (3)
EPD 710 Current Research in Design (3)

Concentration (15 credit hours)
DSC 558 Lighting Design (3)
DSC 594 Conference and Workshop (3)
EPD 791 Seminar (3)
GRA 501 Creative Environment and Collaborative leadership (3)
GRA 561 Methods in Visual Communication I (3)
GRA 562 Methods in Visual Communication II (3)
GRA 581 Internship in Teaching Design (3)
GRA 590 Reading and Conference (3)
INT 515 Decorative Arts in Historic Interiors: A Thematic Overview (3)
INT 516 Textiles in Historic Interiors: Appearance, Function, Symbolism (3)

Electives or Research (21 credit hours)
EPD 790 Reading and Conference (9)
EPD 792 Research (12)

Culminating Experience (12 credit hours)
EPD 799 Dissertation (12)

Additional Curriculum Information
Students choose five courses from the list of concentration courses above. Other equivalent courses may be used as concentration coursework with approval of the supervisory committee.

When approved by the student's supervisory committee and the Graduate College, this program allows 30 credit hours from a previously awarded master's degree to be used for this degree.

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 a closely related field from a regionally accredited institution. Examples of appropriate fields include art history, architectural history, and design history. Fields in the humanities such as history, literature, archaeology and anthropology also may be considered. Students without graduate experience in the history of art, history of architecture and history of design may be asked to fulfill deficiencies.

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 the applicable master's degree.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. GRE scores
4. letters of recommendation
5. personal statement
6. abstract of proposed research
7. 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.

Applicants must submit a personal statement, abstract of proposed research and contact information for two references to Slideroom (https://asudesign.slideroom.com). It is required that these be submitted in addition to the Graduate College application requirements.

Application Deadlines
Fall

Career Opportunities
Over 80 people have completed the program, and many are pursuing university teaching and research careers in design, environment and the arts fields. Others have careers leading planning and design firms, or are engaged in business, industry, government and advocacy careers.

Contact Information
Dean, Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts | CDN 152E
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