Exploration Systems Design (Systems Engineering), PhD

The exploration systems design systems engineering PhD program combines the creative strengths of science, engineering, and education to prepare you for professional and academic careers. You can study artificial intelligence, human factors engineering, smart materials/structures and robot modeling with faculty specializing in the natural sciences, instrumentation design and systems engineering.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: PHD Exploration Systems Design (Systems Engineering)

The PhD in exploration systems design offers students an advanced systems approach for developing scientific exploration technologies in a wide range of demanding environments on the earth, planets, moons and in space. This transdisciplinary degree program provides a unique platform to train systems engineers targeting technological development for exploration science. This collaborative program between the School of Earth and Space Exploration and the Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering allows students to specialize in topics related to planetary exploration, astronomical instrumentation, robotics, sensors and sensor networks.

The curriculum integrates the School of Earth and Space Exploration's science, instrumentation and systems engineering core courses with related coursework from the Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering. Students must select a concentration as part of this degree program. Concentrations are available in instrumentation, systems engineering and sensor networks. The systems engineering concentration prepares students in the design, planning, creation and operation of complex exploration systems, including spaceflight and missions and large, multidisciplinary experiments.

At a Glance

- **College/School:** The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- **Location:** Tempe campus
Degree Requirements

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

Required Core (1 credit hour)
SES 502 Exploring SESE Research (1)

Electives or Research (61 credit hours)

Other Requirements (1 credit hour)
SES 501 SESE Colloquium (1)

Concentration (9 credit hours)

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

Additional Curriculum Information
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 in a related field to be used for this degree. Related fields include, but are not limited to, engineering, computer science, geological sciences or physics.

As part of the electives or research, students will take two science courses selected from the SESE graduate course catalog (GLG, SES, or AST prefixes). Substitutions may be made per academic unit approval.

Substitutions for Other Requirements may be made per department approval.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

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 of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.
All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admissions application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. statement of purpose
4. GRE scores
5. three letters of recommendation
6. proof of English proficiency

**Additional Application Information**
An applicant whose native language is not English (regardless of current residency) must provide proof of English proficiency.

Systems engineering concentration: Successful completion of a senior capstone or design project is an admission requirement for this concentration. Students who have not had a design course are required to take SES 405 Exploration Systems Engineering as a deficiency course.

**Application Deadlines**

Fall  
Spring  

**Global Opportunities**

PLuS Alliance  
Global Experience  
Global Degree

**Career Opportunities**

**Contact Information**

School of Earth and Space Exploration | ISTB4 795  
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Admission Deadlines