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MS Human Systems Engineering

Program Overview

The Master of Science (MS) degree in Human Systems Engineering (HSE) is offered through the Human Systems Engineering (HSE) program at Arizona State University Polytechnic School (part of the Fulton Schools of Engineering). The HSE program emphasizes the application of psychological science, cognitive science, and engineering principles to diverse areas, including decision making, health, human factors, human-computer interaction, learning and education, perception, social processes, team cognition, usability, and product development. Areas of specific focus have included aviation, consumer products, educational technology, health care, military applications, cyber security, and public safety.

The degree requires completion of 30 credits with an average grade of “B” or better. In addition to coursework, students must complete either a research-based Thesis or a client-sponsored Applied Project. The Thesis involves conducting, analyzing, and presenting a novel research project under the direction of a faculty advisor. The thesis is orally defended in front of a committee and the final document is submitted through the Graduate College office. The thesis is the most typical option, and is also recommended for students planning to later pursue a doctoral program. The Applied Project involves the application of psychological principles to problems and questions determined by a client sponsor. For example, students might work with a startup company to provide website or product usability evaluations, consult with a community organization to develop improved methods for real-world practices, or perhaps develop a new piece of software. Students should work closely with their faculty advisor(s) to develop a plan of study and project that meets degree requirements and academic standards.

Students are also required to attend and participate in a weekly brown bag seminar series in which students, faculty, and visiting scholars will present their work.

Students will complete Annual Progress Reports and receive feedback in the spring or summer. In addition, students are strongly encouraged to meet with their advisor(s) on a regular basis.

Upon completion of the degree, there are many opportunities available to graduates. Some students pursue a doctoral degree at Arizona State University or another institution. Other students seek positions as applied psychologists, human factors engineers, usability engineers, or other jobs in industry or government. Graduates have obtained jobs at the Air Force Research Laboratory, Boeing, GoDaddy, Exponent, Intel, Research Collective, Sandia Research Corp., and Veteran’s Administration Hospitals.

Admissions

Admission to the MS in Human Systems Engineering program requires the completion of all general admission requirements and procedures set forth by Graduate Admission Services. For general information on applications, deadlines, international requirements, application requirements, and
other information, please see Graduate Admissions. Prior to submitting an application to Graduate Admissions, applicants should review the information provided in this handbook regarding the degree program, including specific application requirements and deadlines.

Submission of an Application
For admission information and procedures, review the How and When to Apply For Graduate Admission website. Applications for all graduate degree programs and non-degree status must be submitted via the application website.

Current students with an approved Request to Maintain Continuous Enrollment petition on file with the Graduate College prior to their semester of nonregistration and are continuing the same degree program for the semester immediately following the approved request are not required to submit a new application for admission.

Application Deadlines
The dates noted are priority deadlines for submitting a complete application. Applications received after this date may still be considered but are not guaranteed to be evaluated for the semester of application.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Last Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall (August)</td>
<td>April 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring (January)</td>
<td>September 15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Admission and Eligibility
Admission to the MS in Human Systems Engineering program requires completion of a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology or a related field (including engineering, computer science or business) from a regionally accredited institution or the equivalent of a U.S. bachelor’s degree from an international institution that is officially recognized by that country.

Applicants must meet the following admission requirements:
- Minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.0=A) in the last 60 hours of a student’s first bachelor’s degree program.
- Minimum of 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00=A) in graduate work, if applicable

A complete MS Human Systems Engineering application for admission includes the following items:
- An online Graduate Admission application, including attachments of the following documents:
  - A professional resume or CV
  - Statement of Research Interests (additional details in the online application)
  - Writing Sample (additional details in the online application)
- Official transcripts from each college and/or university attended
  - Applicants are responsible for submitting official transcripts to Graduate Admissions for their undergraduate degree and graduate coursework, if applicable.
- Official GRE general exam scores
A GRE Waiver Request is available for those meeting the criteria and applying to one of the master's programs.

- Three (3) letters of recommendation
- International applicants must also meet the English proficiency requirements, as defined by Graduate Admissions. Please be sure to review the TOEFL, IELTS, or PTE score requirements, as International applications will not be processed without valid proof of English proficiency.

Academic units submit recommendations regarding admission decisions to Graduate Admissions; only the Dean of Graduate Admissions can make formal offers of admission. Applicants are able to monitor the status of their application through My ASU. If admitted, the formal letter of admission can be downloaded from My ASU. If denied admission, letters are sent via email to the address on record.

If the applicant does not meet the minimum GPA requirements, the application may still be considered. In certain cases, demonstrated aptitude through professional experience or additional post baccalaureate education will be considered.

In rare cases, provisional or probationary admission may be granted to the MS in Human Systems Engineering program. Students in this category may be assigned deficiency courses, additional GPA requirements, or both. The conditions of probationary admission are discussed in more detail in the section on Grades and Academic Performance requirements later in this document.

**Financial Aid**

Several resources are available to help students understand how to finance a graduate degree. We recommend visiting Pay for your Graduate Education via Graduate College, and Paying for College via Financial Aid and Scholarship Services. For an estimated cost of enrollment, visit: Standard Cost of Attendance.

Assistantships are very limited at the master’s level. If assistantships are available, the positions are managed within the program’s department. Interested students should discuss their research interests with HSE faculty members.

**Program Requirements**

The MS in Human Systems Engineering requires a minimum of 30 credit hours. To earn a Master of Science (MS) degree in Human Systems Engineering, students must meet several core requirements pertaining to coursework, research, and professional development. The degree requires completion of 30 credits with an average grade of “B” or better (for graded courses) or “Pass” (for Pass/Fail courses). These credit hours must include the following:

Students are required to complete several core courses that address essential psychological concepts (e.g., HSE 542: Foundations of Human Systems Engineering), research methods (e.g., HSE 520: Methods and Tools in Applied Cognitive Science), and analysis (e.g., PSY 530 Intermediate Statistics, HSE 598: Data Analytics).
Students are required to enroll in 9-12 credits of elective courses that explore their areas of interest. Electives can be chosen from any relevant graduate course, and students may take up to two 400-level undergraduate courses, such as HSE 426: Training and Expertise, HSE 424: Human Automation Interaction, and HSE 429: Product Design and Evaluation.

Thesis students are required to enroll in 3 credits of research hours, typically the semester prior to enrollment in thesis hours.

**Required Core Courses** (12 credit hours)
- PSY 530 Intermediate Statistics (3)
- HSE 598 Data Analytics (3)
- HSE 520 Methods and Tools in Applied Cognitive Science (3)
- HSE 542 Foundations of Human Systems Engineering (3)

**Research Course** (0-3 credits)
- HSE592 Research (3)

**Elective Courses** (9-12 credit hours)
- GIT 598: UI/UX Consulting
- HSE 521 Methods and Tools in Human Systems Engineering
- HSE 540 Foundations of Applied Cognitive Science
- HSE 592 Research (3)
- PSY 528 Sensation and Perception
- PSY 560 Advances in Theoretical Psychology
- TWC 544 User Experience

- HSE 422 Human Factors in Sport**
- HSE 423 Human Factors in Transportation**
- HSE 424 Human Automation Interaction**
- HSE 425 Human Factors in Medical Systems**
- HSE 426 Training and Expertise**
- HSE 427 Designing for Learning**
- HSE 428 Judgment and Decision Making**
- HSE 429 Product Design and Evaluation**

*A maximum of 6 credits of 400-level coursework is permitted on the graduate plan of study*

The formal approval of elective course selection is accomplished through submission and approval of a Plan of Study, and students are encouraged to complete this document after completing their first semester to ensure that the desired courses meet the curricular requirements.

**Culminating Experience (6 credit hours)**
There are two options for the culminating experience:
- EGR593 Applied Project (6 credits)
- EGR599 Thesis (6 credits)
Research

Students are expected to actively engage in research under the guidance of a faculty member. During the first year of the program, students will work closely with the faculty member to support an existing research agenda. Students will typically enroll in 3 credits of HSE 592: Research during the first or second semester of the program. Students who participate in research during the summer (e.g., as a paid RA) can also enroll in HSE 592: Research.

During the second year of the program, students will complete an original and independent research-based Thesis or a client-sponsored Applied Project.

- The **Thesis** involves conducting, analyzing, and presenting a novel research project under the direction of a faculty advisor. The Thesis is the most typical path, and is particularly recommended for students planning to pursue a doctoral program. For the Thesis, students enroll in 3 credits of HSE 599: Thesis for two semesters (6 credits total).

- The **Applied Project** involves the application of psychological principles to problems and processes determined by a client. For example, students might develop a comprehensive report that recommends actionable solutions to real-world challenges, develop improved methods for real-world tasks, or design a novel product. Students will work with a client and faculty advisor to develop a project that meets requirements and standards. For the Applied Project, students typically enroll in 3 credits of HSE 593: Applied Project for two semesters (i.e., 6 credits total).

Should I pursue a Thesis or Applied Project? A thesis involves empirical data collection to answer an applied or theoretical question. A thesis may eventually be published in an academic journal. An applied project may or may not involve data collection. Instead it may involve prototyping, design, or a thorough literature review to address a specific client-centered problem. An applied project may also be published, but is more to lead to a patent or portfolio item. The specific track chosen does not appear on the diploma, and those who pursue the applied project do not necessarily rule out advancing toward a PhD program. Similarly, those pursuing a thesis are not ruling out working in industry. The decision is really a matter of preference for experimental human factors or applied human factors work, though keep in mind that the applied project’s research question is initiated by industry.

### Milestones and Timeline

The following milestones and timeline will help you track your progress through the degree program. The milestones assume that you will complete the degree over a period of about four semesters, though you may make faster or slower progress depending on your work. Your annual evaluations will take into account your progress toward meeting these milestones.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Culminating Experience</th>
<th>Required Credits</th>
<th>Elective Credits</th>
<th>Research Credits</th>
<th>Culminating Experience Credits</th>
<th>Total Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applied Project</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thesis</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• **Exploration Milestone:** in your first semester, you should begin actively exploring topics related to your interests and those of potential faculty mentors. Begin by meeting with each of the program faculty and discussing research topics of mutual interest. Faculty can help you do a deeper dive into one or more topics. For instance, you may be asked to read a set of articles or chapters and prepare an annotated bibliography on the topic. You are encouraged to enroll in HSE 592 and get involved with at least one lab and research. You must meet with your assigned faculty advisor as soon as possible. By the end of the semester, you must have chosen a topic for continued investigation.

• **Development Milestone:** in your second semester, will explore your chosen topic in greater depth through additional readings and discussions with your advisor. You are encouraged to enroll in HSE 592 and get involved with at least one lab and research. By the end of the semester, you must identify a well-defined research question to answer (Thesis) or a client-driven problem to analyze or solve (Applied Project).

• **Proposal Milestone:** in your third semester, you will enroll in HSE 599 (Thesis) or HSE 593 (Applied Project). You will expand the literature review related to your project focus, and will develop a formal proposal. By the end of the semester, you must submit a proposal to your committee (and client, for Applied Projects). Completing your proposal earlier in the semester offers more time to conduct the work.

• **Synthesis Milestone:** in your fourth semester (and beyond), you will conduct your proposed project and enroll in HSE 599 (Thesis) or HSE 593 (Applied Project). Complete the work outlined in your proposal, including data collection, analyses, and interpretation. Next, author your thesis or applied project report and revise based on committee feedback. These tasks may extend across more than one semester depending on the scope of your project and efficiency in conducting the work.

You are solely responsible your own progress through the program. Failing to complete the above milestones may delay your graduation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestone</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Deadline (earlier is always better)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exploration</td>
<td>Meet with your assigned faculty advisor and identify MS topic</td>
<td>End of Semester 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development</td>
<td>Identify research question or applied problem</td>
<td>End of Semester 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposal</td>
<td>Submit thesis or applied project proposal</td>
<td>End of Semester 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synthesis</td>
<td>Complete thesis or applied project</td>
<td>End of Semester 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Culminating Experience Overview

Applied Project
To complete the MS Human Systems Engineering degree under these requirements, a student must complete a total of 24 credit hours of approved coursework with a GPA of 3.0 or higher, coupled with the completion of an Applied Project (HSE 593).

A student completing the Applied Project will be supervised by a Polytechnic School Human Systems Engineering program faculty member or a qualified faculty member from outside of the program who has been approved by the Graduate Program Chair and the Graduate College. Consequently, to complete an Applied Project a student must first obtain approval of a faculty member to work with him/her on a project, and subsequent approval of the Graduate Program Chair. The faculty advisor is then responsible for specifying the requirements of the project and for reviewing and approving the final report.

The Applied Project is a demonstration of application of the theory of human systems engineering to solve a practical technical problem of general interest. The subject matter of an Applied Project is more flexible than that of a thesis since the result is not expected to be published, although the project may directly or indirectly support research programs. The faculty advisor has responsibility for establishing the requirements of the project and for approval of the final written report. In all cases, the student must prepare and present the applied project to the faculty advisor and discuss the implementation and results of their project. This presentation will be open to all graduate students. A student will be considered eligible for graduation when the sponsoring faculty member approves the report and presentation and a grade of B or better is assigned on the HSE 593 course(s).

Thesis
To complete the MS Human Systems Engineering degree under these requirements, a student must complete a total of 24 credit hours of approved coursework with a GPA of 3.0 or higher, coupled with the completion of an Applied Project (HSE 599).

This option requires students to participate with faculty to carry out original research. A member of the HSE graduate faculty must agree to serve as the faculty advisor before a student can choose to enroll in this option. This will require a written (including email) confirmation from the faculty advisor that they are agreeing to serve in this capacity. The student, in consultation with the faculty advisor, must then identify at least two additional faculty members from the graduate faculty within the Fulton Schools of Engineering to serve on the MS in Human Systems Engineering thesis committee.

A thesis is a document that reflects and reports research that is of sufficient depth and interest that it can be published in a peer reviewed journal in the field of interest. Successful publication of the work reported in the thesis will be considered evidence of peer acceptance of the work. The thesis document should demonstrate original, independent, and creative thought, demonstrate proficiency with written English, and adhere to the Graduate College format guidelines. Upon completion of the Master’s thesis, the student is required to defend the research in a public forum.
The requirements for completion of the thesis include a formal format review by the Graduate College, a public announcement of the defense time and location, and submission of a copy of the thesis to committee members at least one week in advance of the defense date. The deadlines for these processes are non-negotiable, and it is the responsibility of the student to be aware of all submission and scheduling requirements. It is also the responsibility of the student to identify a room and ensure all necessary equipment and resources are available for the defense.

Establishing the details of the final defense of the thesis is the responsibility of the faculty advisor. At the beginning of the defense, the advisor will introduce the candidate and explain the exact protocol that will be followed. The candidate will present a brief seminar to the audience that explains their accomplishments. The presentation should not exceed 30 minutes, after which the audience will be allowed to ask questions. At the discretion of the faculty advisor, questions may or may not be allowed during the presentation. The general audience is then dismissed and the supervisory committee continues to question the student in depth. At the conclusion of this questioning, the student is asked to briefly leave the room and the committee discusses whether or not the thesis is acceptable and reports their conclusions on the Report for Master’s Thesis Defense form. The student will be asked back into the room and the results of the examination and the subsequent path forward will be explained to the student.

Thesis students must adhere to specific deadlines for the thesis defense and paper submission. At the beginning of the semester a student intends to defend his/her thesis, he/she should notify the Polytechnic School Graduate Advising office (polygrad@asu.edu). Schedule an advising appointment to review key information and deadlines.

Preparing for/Scheduling your Defense: https://graduate.asu.edu/completing-your-degree/defenses
Format/Submit your document: https://graduate.asu.edu/completing-your-degree/format
After your Defense: https://graduate.asu.edu/completing-your-degree/defenses
Graduation Deadlines: https://graduate.asu.edu/completing-your-degree/deadlines

**Labs & Research**
Discover the eight vibrant human systems engineering laboratories located within the Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering’s Polytechnic School. Here we conduct research on how people interact with technology and with each other, and work to improve these processes with innovations in human-centered system design and training.

**Automation Design Advancing People and Technology (ADAPT) Laboratory**
Research Interests: human-computer interaction, trust in automation, human-agent cooperation in complex systems, resilience engineering, health systems engineering, interruptions, medical devices
Director: Erin K. Chiou Assistant Professor / erin.chiou@asu.edu

**User Experience Laboratory (X Lab)**
Research Interests: user experience, product design, healthcare human factors, aviation and consumer psychology
Director: Russell J. Branaghan Associate Professor / russell.branaghan@asu.edu
Cognitive-Based Applied Learning Technology (CoBALT) Laboratory
Research Interests: learning sciences, virtual humans, roles of discourse and emotions in learning and training with technology
*Director: Scotty Craig Assistant Professor / scotty.craig@asu.edu*

Sustainable Learning and Adaptive Technology for Education Laboratory
Research Interests: self-regulated and self-directed learning in authentic settings, deep learning experiences, adaptive educational technologies, learning with real-world impact
*Director: Rod Roscoe Assistant Professor / rod.roscoe@asu.edu*

Perception and Action Laboratory (PAL)
Research Interests: perception and cognition in driving, flying and sports, multisensory interface development, sports training, simulator development, intelligent transportation systems
*Director: Rob Gray Associate Professor and Program Chair / robgray@asu.edu*

Applied Psychonomics and Ecological Simulations (APES) Laboratory
Research Interests: social cognition, evolutionary psychology, emotions as modulators of cognition and behavior, agent based models of complex social systems
*Director: Vaughn Becker Associate Professor / vaughn.becker@asu.edu*

Cognitive Engineering Research on Team Tasks (CERTT) Laboratory
Research Interests: team cognition, human-autonomy teaming, team science, remotely piloted aircraft systems
*Director: Nancy J. Cooke Professor / ncooke@asu.edu*

Faculty

**Vaughn Becker**, Santa Catalina 150E, (480) 727-1151, vaughn.becker@asu.edu

Dr. Becker currently is developing a psychophysics of social perception, as well as methods to identify biases in such perception. This could facilitate selecting the right individuals for jobs in which unbiased accuracy and rapid decision-making is essential, for example, in military security or air traffic control. He also is interested in general assessments of cognitive functioning under conditions of high stress and/or fundamental motivations. He has an abiding interest in evolutionary psychology, and a background in social psychology, which has sensitized me to both ultimate and proximate sources of bias, e.g. stereotyping, self-presentation, and attribution errors. Dr. Becker's newest interest is in developing agent based models and dynamical simulations of complex social systems.

**Russ Branaghan**, Santa Catalina 150J, (480) 727-1390, russ.branaghan@asu.edu

Dr. Branaghan studies cognitive and social human factors in health care, product development, web, and aviation. He is particularly interested in methods for organizing information to make product more useful, usable and desirable. Recent projects have included usability testing, observational research, design and redesign projects for in-car navigation and information systems, information systems for police cars, and methods for redesigning tasks in hospitals to reduce human error and improve patient safety.
Erin Chiou, Santa Catalina, erin.chiou@asu.edu

Dr. Chiou conducts research on microworlds and simulations to explore dyadic exchanges between humans and technology, applying systems thinking to human-automation integration problems, and using mixed methods to improve technology integration in healthcare work. Advances in automation have led to increasingly capable machines, from adaptive algorithms to embodied social agents. Instead of operating remotely behind safety cages, new automation is moving into our more unpredictable human world. These changes shift engineering goals in some domains from reliability to resilience, or the sustained ability to adapt to future surprises as conditions evolve. Dr. Chiou’s findings indicate the importance of considering social exchange factors in human-automation interaction and the need for human-agent cooperation to support system resilience.

Nancy Cooke, SANCA 150b, (480) 727-5158, ncooke@asu.edu

Dr. Cooke studies individual and team cognition and its application to the development of cognitive and knowledge engineering methodologies, sensor operator detection of threat, cyber security systems, remotely-operated vehicles, healthcare systems, and emergency response systems. In particular, Dr. Cooke specializes in the development, application, and evaluation of methodologies to elicit and assess individual and team cognition. Based on her empirical work in her synthetic task environments for teams over the last two decades, Dr. Cooke has proposed a theory of Interactive Team Cognition which is published in the journal, Cognitive Science.

Scotty Craig, Santa Catalina 150G, (480) 727-1006, scotty.craig@asu.edu

Dr. Craig has conducted projects in such areas as affect and learning, discourse processing, multimedia learning, vicarious learning environments, and intelligent tutoring systems (ITS) in both laboratory and applied classroom settings. His lab, the Cognitive-Based Applied Learning Technology (CoBALT) Lab, seeks to provide cutting edge research at the intersection of human cognition, technology, and the learning sciences which can provide solutions to real world problems within education and training. Current projects include virtual humans for learning and training, music on the web, effectiveness of electronic textbooks for learning, and applications of ITS to training within virtual worlds and classroom and after-school settings.

Robert Gray, robgray@asu.edu

Dr. Gray conducts research on the dynamics of perception, cognition, and action in skilled performance. This work addresses issues of human factors, motion perception, driving, tactile interfaces, sports, and aviation. Dr. Gray’s research seeks to advance perception-action theory while directly related to applied problems. He contributes substantial expertise with simulations, including driving and baseball simulators.
Robert Gutzwiller, Santa Catalina

Dr. Gutzwiller studies the critical role of the human in complex systems. His work scientifically applies cognitive engineering to healthcare, cyberspace, transportation, and defense. His recent research focuses on studying and engineering attention (How do humans select what task to do when they are multitasking and overwhelmed, and can models predict this behavior?), human-automation interaction (How do humans learn to interact with complex systems, particularly those which use automation, artificial intelligence and machine learning?), and defensive cyberspace operations (How does a cyber analyst protecting networks develop awareness? Could properties of attention be used against would-be attackers to make defenses more robust?). Interested persons should contact him directly to discuss his work.

Rod Roscoe, Santa Catalina 150D, (480) 727-2760, rod.roscoe@asu.edu

Dr. Roscoe examines and explores methods for supporting self-regulated and self-directed learning in authentic settings. Learners, when carefully instructed and scaffolded, can create deep learning experiences for themselves and each other. Similarly, adaptive educational technologies can be designed or deployed in ways that augment learning and afford new ways to learn. Dr. Roscoe’s research also targets areas with real-world impact, such as writing proficiency, sustainability, health and wellness, and informed consumer behavior. Ultimately, his research group seeks to empower learners of all ages with productive strategies, technologies, and opportunities that can be sustained over a lifetime of education.

Required Courses

PSY 530: Intermediate Statistics (3 credits)
This course prepares students to conduct and analyze statistical procedures related to one-way and factorial designs, contrasts, post-hoc tests, probing of interactions, mixed designs, and power. Relevant computer software applications (e.g., SPSS) are also discussed. Alternative statistics courses may fill this requirement if approved by the faculty.

HSE 598 Data Analytics (3 credits)
This course is designed to introduce graduate students and senior undergraduates in Human Systems Engineering, or in closely related fields, to principles and methods of analyzing human subjects data. The purpose of this course is to impart students with the necessary critical thinking, self-learning, and analysis skills to be competitive for current academic and private sector positions in human factors, systems engineering, or human systems design and evaluation. The objectives of this course are to improve analytical and communication skills for scientific research, to learn how to learn R, and to build confidence in wrangling, analyzing, and visualizing human subjects data.

HSE 520: Methods and Tools in Applied Cognitive Science (3 credits)
This course provides a hands-on approach to understanding and using advanced methodologies commonly implemented in the field of cognitive science, such as experimental designs, quasi-experimental designs, cognitive task analysis, eye-tracking, electroencephalography (EEG)
recordings, and other behavioral and physiological recordings. It is highly recommended that you take a research methods course as early as possible.

HSE 542: Foundations of Human Systems Engineering (3 credits)
A wide variety of methodologies utilized by and applications of the broad field of human systems engineering.

Elective Courses

Electives: (9 to 12 credits) students can take graduate courses (500-level or above) in our program or other programs as electives. Students can take up to two undergraduate courses (400-level or above) as electives. Consult with your advisor regarding appropriate course options. Applied project students must take 12 credits, thesis students must take 9 credits of elective coursework.

PSY 560: Advances in Theoretical Psychology (can be taken two times under different subtopics)
This diverse course covers contemporary empirical and theoretical research in psychology with emphasis on applicability. The conceptual focus of this course changes each semester depending on the interests of the instructors. For example, prior sections have discussed teams and team cognition, virtual and augmented reality, structural knowledge, and memory. Alternative content courses may fill this requirement if approved by the faculty.

HSE 594: Conference and Workshop (1 credit; up to 3 credits over three semesters)
Students will attend and participate in professional development activities such a weekly research seminar series, academic and professional conferences, workshops, and so on.

Other electives options:
- GIT 598: UI/UX Consulting
- HSE 422 Human Factors in Sport**
- HSE 423 Human Factors in Transportation**
- HSE 424 Human Automation Interaction**
- HSE 425 Human Factors in Medical Systems**
- HSE 426 Training and Expertise**
- HSE 427 Designing for Learning**
- HSE 428 Judgment and Decision Making**
- HSE 429 Product Design and Experiment**
- HSE 540 Foundations of Applied Cognitive Science
- PSY 528 Sensation and Perception
- TWC 544 User Experience

See class search for course descriptions.

**A maximum of 6 credits of 400-level coursework is permitted on the graduate plan of study

Research and Capstone Courses

HSE 592: Research (up to 6 credits)
Under the supervision of a faculty member, students can conduct research that is expected to lead to a specific project such as a thesis or dissertation, report, or publication. Research assignments and responsibilities are determined by the supervising faculty member and might include data collection, experimental work, data analysis, or preparation of a manuscript. Students may enroll in between 1 credit to 6 credits of HSE 592: Research in one semester. Students who work on a paid research project over the summer will enroll in HSE 592: Research.

**HSE 599: Thesis** (6 credits)
Under the supervision of a faculty member, students will identify a topic and research question(s) of interest; conduct a thorough literature review; develop testable hypotheses; and develop a detailed proposed plan of empirical research and analysis to address those hypotheses. Once the thesis proposal is approved, the student will conduct the planned work. The Thesis should result in an original, meaningful, and rigorous product that contributes to the research literature on the chosen topic. Students should strive to conduct work that merits publication in respected journals within their field.

Typically, students will enroll in 1-3 credits HSE 599: Thesis per semester during their second year, following the completion of introductory research and analysis training. Students must be enrolled in at least one credit of HSE 599: Thesis during the semester they graduate. A “Z” grade is reported on all credits until all thesis requirements are fulfilled.

For more specific details about the processes and projects of conducting a Thesis, please see the Completing a Thesis in Human Systems Engineering section.

**HSE 593: Applied Project** (6 credits)
Under the supervision of a faculty member and in collaboration with an industry or community client, students will identify a topic or problem of interest; conduct a thorough literature review; and develop a proposed plan of analysis, design, or product development. Once the proposed project is approved, the student will conduct the planned work. The Applied Project should result in an original, meaningful, and useful final product. Such products might include a new piece of software or technology, an analysis of an important phenomenon or problem, recommended solutions or actions, and so on.

Typically, students will enroll in 1-3 credits of HSE 593: Applied Project per semester during their second year, following the completion of introductory research and analysis training. Students must be enrolled in at least one credit of HSE 593: Applied Project during the semester they graduate. A “Z” grade is reported on all credits until all project requirements are fulfilled.

For more specific details about the processes and projects of conducting an Applied Project, please see the Completing an Applied Project in Human Systems Engineering section.
**Example Plan of Study - Thesis**

Students’ interactive Plan of Study (iPOS) will be determined based on consultation with an advisor and/or graduate program director. Based on prior experience, students may be able to advance past certain courses. Some students may choose to fulfill some of their requirements during the summer, or may even choose to enroll in more than 9 credits (full-time) during a semester. Please see the **Accelerated Master's Degree** section. A student might follow a Plan of Study such as the sample below, but your specific plan of study will likely differ.

Please note that “full-time” status requires enrollment in 9 credit hours in a semester. If you receive funding via a Graduate Assistant position, “full-time” requires enrollment in 12 credit hours.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>PSY 530: <em>Intermediate Statistics</em></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>HSE 542: <em>Foundations of Human Systems Engineering</em></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Elective (400-level or above)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>HSE 598: <em>Data Analytics</em></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>HSE 520: <em>Methods &amp; Tools in Applied Cognitive Science</em></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>HSE 592: <em>Research</em> (or) Elective (400-level or above)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Elective (400-level or above)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>HSE 599: <em>Thesis</em> (or) HSE 593: <em>Applied Project</em></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Elective (400-level or above)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>HSE 599: <em>Thesis</em> (or) HSE 593: <em>Applied Project</em></td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Credit Hours</strong></td>
<td><strong>30</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Completing a Thesis in Human Systems Engineering

The thesis is the culminating project for your Master of Science in HSE. Please note that the thesis is a project that spans your entire tenure in the MS program. See deadlines in brackets (these indicate the latest possible times to complete action). Use the checklist below in order to monitor your progress and complete required procedures.

**Checklist**

1. **Meet with your assigned faculty advisor.** Meet with your faculty advisor early in the first semester, review the recent research of the HSE faculty, and identify potential topics for your MS applied project or thesis. [SEM 1]

2. **Identify research topics.** Refine your research interests to select specific topics and questions that you will investigate further via literature reviews and studies. [SEM 1]

3. **Form a thesis committee.** In addition to your advisor, you will invite two or more other faculty members to guide your project. [SEM 2]

4. **Write the thesis proposal.** Provide a thorough review of the relevant literature and detailed description of your planned methods and analyses. [SEM 3]

5. **Schedule a proposal meeting.** Convene your committee to present your proposed research to your committee and receive their detailed feedback and recommendations. [SEM 3]

6. **Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval.** Obtain approval from the IRB prior to conducting your research. All research with human subjects must be evaluated for ethics. [SEM 4]

7. **Data collection and analysis.** Conduct the research as planned and approved by your committee. All deviations from your plan must be reapproved by your faculty advisor. [SEM 4]

8. **Write the thesis document.** Building upon your proposal, provide a detailed report of your background literature, methods, analyses, results, and conclusions. [SEM 4]

9. **Schedule the thesis defense.** Once the thesis has been read by your advisor, schedule the defense. Send your thesis to committee members two weeks in advance. [SEM 4]

10. **Submit your thesis for formatting approval.** After scheduling your defense, submit a copy of your thesis to ASU Graduate College to ensure correct formatting. [SEM 4]
11. **Defend and revise.** Prepare a professional presentation of your work to be shared with your committee. Be prepared to justify your work and revise based on feedback. [SEM 4]

12. **Present your work at a Brown Bag.** Students are required to present their research at the Brown Bag talk series. This talk can be given before your defense (as practice). [SEM 4]

**Detailed Thesis Procedures**

**Step 1 – Meet with your assigned faculty advisor.**

Your faculty advisor will be your supervisor and primary mentor. Thus, it is important to meet with your advisor and discuss relevant expertise and mentorship style. Learn more about your faculty advisor by studying their published work.

**Step 2 – Identify research topics.**

Based on a review of the literature, coursework, conference attendance, and discussions with your colleagues, develop a short list of research questions that might inform your research. As you study the background literature, focus on key unanswered questions and unsolved problems in your field. Choose questions that both interest you and contribute to the broader community.

Building upon your advisor’s past work and expertise can significantly streamline your progress compared to “starting from scratch.”

**Step 3 – Form a thesis committee.**

Based on suggestions from your faculty advisor and discussions with other faculty members, you will invite (at least) two other faculty members to guide your work. Your committee must have at least three members, including (a) one full-time, HSE faculty member and (b) one other ASU faculty member, who may be full-time, adjunct, and from a different program. If any committee member is a non-ASU faculty member, they will need to provide a copy of their recent CV and be approved by the program chair.

Send a description of your topic(s) and research question(s) to potential committee members and request a meeting. It is up to the faculty member whether they choose to be on your committee.

**Step 4 – Write a thesis proposal that includes a clear timeline.**

The thesis proposal presents your research ideas and plans to your committee. It is important that your proposal document be thorough, coherent, and well-written. Your proposal should provide:

- A comprehensive literature review that presents the relevant background knowledge for important concepts and principles. The reader should be able to understand the core
constructs, theories, and findings that motivate your work. More importantly, the reader should be able to understand the key problems or unanswered questions that your project will address, and appreciate why those problems or questions are valuable to study.

- A clear statement of your research questions and hypotheses. The reader should be able to understand exactly what questions that your project will answer. Similarly, when relevant, you should summarize the hypotheses that will be tested and your predicted outcomes. These hypotheses should logically follow from your literature review.

- A detailed description and timeline of your proposed research methods, including all data sources (e.g., participants, measures, and instruments) and procedures (e.g., how participants will be recruited, how tests will be administered, and what steps will be followed in the study). The more detail you provide in this section, the easier it will be for your faculty advisor and committee to help you refine and improve your methodology.

- A detailed description of your planned analyses (e.g., what comparisons, models, and statistics will be conducted to address your questions and hypotheses).

Work with your faculty advisor to revise multiple drafts until you have a polished proposal. Your advisor will decide when you can proceed to a proposal meeting.

**Step 5 – Schedule and conduct a proposal meeting.**

Schedule a date and time to present your proposal. All members of your committee must be present, but it is acceptable to have committee members attend via phone, Skype, or other arrangement. Submit your proposal to your committee 10-14 days in advance of your meeting.

Your proposal meeting must be scheduled by no later than your third semester in the program, not including summer semesters.

You will prepare a 15-20 minute presentation that offers an overview of the key background, questions, methods, and analyses. This presentation will be followed by an in-depth discussion of the research proposal with your committee. Your committee will suggest revisions, changes, and improvements that need to be addressed before you are approved to conduct the research.

**Step 6 – Obtain Institutional Review Board approval (if necessary).**

Any project that involves collection or analysis of data with human subjects requires Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval. The IRB assesses the risks and ethical conduct of all planned research. You will need to complete an IRB proposal form and respond to feedback from a representative of the Office of Research Integrity and Assurance.

Please visit the ORIA website for human research: [http://researchintegrity.asu.edu/humans](http://researchintegrity.asu.edu/humans)
In addition, all graduate students working on any project involving human subjects are required to complete either the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) or National Institutes of Health (NIH) online training course on conducting research. You will need to save a copy of your completion certificate and renew your certification periodically.

**Step 7 – Data collection and analysis.**

Once given approval by your committee and the IRB (if necessary), begin collecting your data. This process can take much longer than you expect; do not procrastinate. Depending on your project, you may be able to collect data via the subject pool (see the HSE Subject Pool section of this document).

In addition to the measures and data you collect, document your procedures and protocols. Make note of any unexpected events or oddities that occur. Most importantly, be careful and meticulous when storing and filing your data! Backup your files often.

**Step 8 – Write the thesis.**

Ideally, your proposal will have been thorough and polished enough that it provides a strong start to your actual thesis. For example, whereas your proposal might have been written in future tense (e.g., “We will collect data on participants’ working memory…”), your thesis may contain the same content written in past tense (e.g., “We collected data on participants’ working memory…”).

Nonetheless, you should expect to revise and expand your literature review and methodology sections to reflect your growing expertise and changes that occurred.

The new addition to your thesis will be sections that clearly present the results of your work and the interpretations and findings you obtain. Your thesis document should provide:

- **A thorough and clear reporting of the results** of your analyses. Explain the patterns that were observed in your data and measures. Explain how these results support or do not support your hypotheses and research questions. Report appropriate numerical and statistical data using accepted conventions, tables, and graphs.

- **A thoughtful discussion of the interpretation and impact of your findings.** Summarize your major findings as they relate to your hypotheses. This section will include no data, but rather your interpretations and explanations. In addition, this section should present both the limitations and flaws in your research and discuss directions for future work.

The thesis will need to be formatted in a specific manner according to the ASU Graduate Education Guidelines: [http://graduate.asu.edu/format](http://graduate.asu.edu/format)

As with the proposal, provide a draft of the thesis to your faculty advisor for review and commentary. Your advisor should review the thesis before it is submitted to other committee members and before scheduling a defense. Work with your faculty advisor to revise multiple drafts until you have a polished thesis. Your advisor will decide when you can proceed to a thesis defense.
Use American Psychological Association guidelines for writing style, references and citations, and reporting outcomes (http://www.apastyle.org/).

**Step 9 – Schedule the thesis defense.**

Schedule a date and time to present and defend your thesis. All members of your committee must be present, but it is acceptable to have committee members present via phone, Skype, or other arrangement. Submit your thesis to your committee 10-14 days in advance of your meeting.

Importantly, your thesis defense must also be officially scheduled via your MyASU website under the My Programs and Degree Progress “Defense” tab for ASU Graduate Education. This scheduling must be made at least ten working days prior to the actual defense.

More information can be found here: http://graduate.asu.edu/

**Step 10 – Submit your thesis for formatting approval.**

Soon after scheduling the defense, submit the thesis document to the Graduate Education office (gradformat@asu.edu) for formatting approval. Their office will check your thesis to ensure it conforms to the official format. They will not review your work for content or accuracy.

**Step 11 – Defend and revise.**

You will prepare a 15-20 minute professional presentation that reviews the important concepts, hypotheses, methods, and findings. This presentation will be followed by an in-depth discussion of the thesis with your committee. Your committee will ask you questions about your rationale, procedures, and findings and you should be prepared to explain and justify your work.

A defense form will be emailed directly to your supervisor. Based on the merit of the research and thesis defense, the outcome will be: Pass, Pass with Major Revisions, Pass with Minor Revisions, or Fail. All committee members will sign the form.

Your committee may suggest revisions before your thesis is approved. Complete these revisions or follow-up work promptly and provide a final, revised thesis to your advisor and committee. The advisor must sign the defense form again to indicate that revisions are complete.

Submit the signed form within 10 days (http://graduate.asu.edu/graddeadlines.html).

**Step 12 – Present your work at a Brown Bag.**

All students are required to give a presentation about their thesis at our Brown Bag series. This presentation can be scheduled before your defense (e.g., as practice) or after your defense (e.g., to
share your success with the community). It is recommended that you use the Brown Bag as a practice opportunity to become more comfortable before your official defense.
Completing an Applied Project in Human Systems Engineering

Another option for your culminating work for the Master of Science in HSE is an Applied Project. The processes and procedures are similar but not identical to those of the thesis. Please note that applied project spans your entire tenure in the MS program. See deadlines in brackets (these indicate the latest possible times to complete action). Use the checklist below in order to monitor your progress and complete required procedures.

Checklist

1. **Meet with your assigned faculty advisor and identify a client sponsor.** Within your area(s) of interest, review potential clients and set up meetings to discuss your plans and ideas. [SEM 1]

2. **Identify project topics.** Refine your interests to select specific topics and questions that you will investigate further via literature reviews and studies. [SEM 1]

3. **Write the project proposal.** Provide a thorough review of the relevant literature, detailed description your planned methods, development process, and/or analyses. [SEM 3]

4. **Get feedback on your proposal.** Your advisor, the HSE 593 instructor, and client will meet with you to provide feedback on your proposal. [SEM 3]

5. **Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval.** You may need to obtain approval from the IRB prior to conducting your research. All research with human subjects must be evaluated for ethics. [SEM 4]

6. **Design, Development, and Analysis.** Proceed with the project as planned and approved. All deviations from your plan must be reapproved by your advisor and client. [SEM 4]

7. **Write the Applied Project report.** Building upon your proposal, provide a detailed report of your background literature, methods, analyses, products, and outcomes. As applicable, develop a portfolio that includes the project. [SEM 4]

8. **Get report feedback and revise.** Have your advisor, HSE 593 instructor, and client review the report. Implement their recommended revisions. [SEM 4]

9. **Schedule report presentation** Your project will be presented as a poster at Innovation Showcase at the end of the semester. For this you will need to prepare a poster and a short elevator pitch about your work. [SEM 4]

*Detailed Applied Project Procedures*
Step 1 – Meet with your assigned faculty advisor and identify a client sponsor.

Your faculty advisor will be your supervisor and primary mentor, and your client will guide the specific goals and needs of the project. The instructor of HSE 593 will also help guide you through the process, but your advisor and client will be the subject matter experts. Thus, it is important to meet with your advisor and discuss relevant expertise and mentorship style. Learn more about your faculty advisor by studying their published work. Learn more about advisor(s) by studying their published work.

Your advisor must be a full-time faculty member of the HSE program (see Faculty List). Although not required, it is ideal if your project aligns with your advisor’s research, and your participation in funded research (e.g., as a Research Assistant) aligns with your project.

Step 2 – Identify project topics.

Based on a review of the literature, coursework, conference attendance, and discussions with your colleagues, develop a short list of concepts, questions, and problems that might inform your project. As you study the background literature, focus on unanswered questions, unsolved problems, or product needs in your area of specialization.

Step 3 – Write a project proposal that includes a clear timeline.

The project proposal presents your ideas and plans. It is important that your proposal document be thorough, coherent, and well-written. Your proposal should provide:

- A comprehensive literature review that presents the relevant background knowledge for important concepts and principles. The reader should be able to understand the core constructs, theories, and findings that motivate your project. More importantly, the reader should be able to understand the key problems, questions, or needs that your project will address, and appreciate why those issues are worthwhile.

- A clear statement of your project goals and expectations. The reader should be able to understand exactly what goals your project will seek to attain. Similarly, when relevant, you should summarize the products or resources to be developed or other expected outcomes. These goals should logically follow from your literature review.

- A detailed description of your proposed development process, data collection, or other methodologies, including all procedures (e.g., design planning, observations, usability testing, efficacy trials) and a timeline. The more detail you provide in this section, the easier it will be for your committee to help you refine and improve your plan.

- A detailed description of your planned analyses (e.g., what comparisons, tests, models, and statistics will be conducted to address your goals and expected outcomes).
Step 4 – Get feedback on your proposal.

Provide your advisor, the instructor of HSE 593, and client with a draft of your proposal. This should occur no later than your third semester in the program, not including summer semesters. Arrange to meet with your advisor, HSE 593 instructor, and client (together or separately) to get feedback on the proposal. Make suggested revisions.

Step 5 – Obtain Institutional Review Board approval (if necessary).

Any project that involves collection or analysis of data with human subjects requires Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval. The IRB assesses the risks and ethical conduct of all planned research. You will need to complete an IRB proposal form and respond to feedback from a representative of the Office of Research Integrity and Assurance.

Please visit the ORIA website for human research: [http://researchintegrity.asu.edu/humans](http://researchintegrity.asu.edu/humans)

In addition, all graduate students working on any project involving human subjects are required to complete either the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) or National Institutes of Health (NIH) online training course on conducting research. You will need to save a copy of your completion certificate and renew your certification periodically.

Step 6 – Design, Development, and Analysis.

Proceed with the project as planned and approved. Once given approval by your committee and the IRB (if necessary), begin your design and development process, data collection, analyses, and so on. This process can take much longer than you expect; do not procrastinate. All deviations from your plan must be reapproved by your advisor and client.

In addition to any measures and data you collect, document your procedures and protocols. Make note of any unexpected events or oddities that occur. Most importantly, be careful and meticulous when storing and filing your data! Backup your files often.

Step 7 – Write the Applied Project report.

Building upon your proposal, provide a detailed report of your background literature, methods, analyses, products, and outcomes. As applicable, develop a portfolio that includes the project.

Ideally, your proposal will have been thorough and polished enough that it provides a strong start to your final report. For example, whereas your proposal might have been written in future tense (e.g., “We will develop a software program…”), your report may contain the same content written in past tense (e.g., “We developed a software program…”). Nonetheless, you should expect to revise and expand your literature review and methodology sections to reflect your growing expertise and changes that occurred.

The new addition to your report will be sections that clearly present the outcomes of your work and the final product(s) developed. Your report should provide:
• A thorough and clear reporting of the outcomes of your analyses, development process, and evaluations. Clearly describe what you have produced. As necessary, report numerical and statistical data using accepted conventions, tables, and graphs.

• A thoughtful discussion of the interpretation and impact of your project. Summarize your major outcomes as they relate to your goals. Clearly explain the utility, applications, and potential impact of your work. In addition, this section should present any limitations and flaws in your project and discuss directions for future work or development.

The applied project report does not need to be formatted in specific a manner according ASU guidelines and does not need to be submitted to the Graduate Education office. Use American Psychological Association guidelines for writing style, references and citations, and reporting outcomes (http://www.apastyle.org/).

Step 8 – Get feedback and revise.

Have your faculty advisor, the instructor of HSE 593, and client review the report. Make revisions as suggested by them. Be prepared to revise multiple drafts until you have a polished report. Your advisor and HSE 593 instructor will decide when you are ready to present your work.

Step 9 – Schedule a report presentation.

Once the report has been reviewed by your faculty advisor and the instructor of HSE 593, begin to prepare your poster for Innovation Showcase at the end of the semester. The poster should be a highly visual presentation of your applied project report and should cover the important concepts, methods, and outcomes of your work. Also prepare a short (3 minute) “elevator pitch” about your project that you can use as you explain your poster at Innovation Showcase.

Accelerated Master’s Degree Option

There is potential for highly ambitious, motivated, and talented students to complete an accelerated version of the Master’s degree program. By simultaneously carrying a significant course load and conducting research, students may be able to complete the program in one year.

Students will need to enroll in 12 credits (9 credits is considered full-time) in the fall and spring semesters, along with 6 credits during the Summer semester. See below for an example plan of study for pursuing an accelerated Master’s degree. Note that students can take up to two undergraduate courses (400-level or above) as electives for a total of no more than 6 credits.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>PSY 530: Intermediate Statistics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HSE 542: Foundations of Human Systems Engineering</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elective (400-level or above)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>HSE 598: Data Analytics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Students interested in the accelerated Master’s degree must enter the program with a well-developed agenda for conducting their project. Students will also need to select their faculty advisor before or immediately upon starting the program. HSE 592: Research may be used to begin the student’s Thesis or Applied Project work in the fall and spring. The work will be completed and finalized during the summer (HSE 599: Thesis or HSE 593: Applied Project).

This is a very ambitious and challenging schedule. Careful attention will need to be paid to Arizona State University deadlines and timelines for graduate paperwork.

Students interested in the accelerated Master’s degree should contact the HSE Program Coordinator or Graduate Program Director as early as possible.

**Professional Development**

An important aspect of academic and professional success is participation within a community of scholars and practitioners. For example, individuals might attend research conferences (e.g., the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society annual meeting), participate in professional student groups (e.g., the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society student chapter), attend workshops (e.g., National Science Foundation Proposal Clinic), and give research presentations.

Every semester, students are required to attend and participate in a bi-weekly brown bag seminar in which students, faculty, and visitors discuss contemporary work. Students can enroll in a 1 credit course, HSE 594: Conference and Workshop, to receive credit for attendance.

**Additional Information**

**Brown Bag Seminars**

The Human Systems Engineering Program hosts a bi-weekly series of talks related to research, applications of research, and graduate education issues. The primary goals of these talks are to provide a forum for sharing and discussing diverse research with colleagues. Attending these talks offers you exposure to new and different fields and career possibilities.

These talks are typically held on Wednesdays in the San Tan Building Room 220. The schedule of talks will be announced via email. Presentations are archived online.
Importantly, attendance at the seminars is expected and mandatory for all Human Systems Engineering Master’s degree students, regardless of whether you are enrolled in HSE 594: Conference and Workshop. Lack of attendance will reflect poorly on you and be noted in your Annual Progress Report.

Annual Progress Reports
Students will complete a report of their progress toward degree requirements in the spring semester and will receive Annual Progress Reports each spring or summer. These reports will provide feedback and guidance on how students are progressing, or need to improve, in terms of coursework, research, and professional development.

You will submit a progress report each spring. The purpose of these Annual Progress Reports is threefold. First, we wish to encourage students to formalize their plans for completion of their degree. Second, we wish to provide specific and formative feedback from the HSE faculty on students’ progress. Third, we wish to help you monitor and address any barriers to your progress (e.g., coursework, administrative issues, and project development).

You will be asked to complete a brief self-review form (see final page) which will be considered by the HSE faculty. A faculty member will generate a formative feedback letter.

Research Beyond the Thesis and Applied Project
Although your thesis or applied project will be a primary focus of your graduate work, it is also highly recommended and encouraged that you become involved in additional research projects. Your advisor may have other research agendas that interest you, and you may wish to work with other faculty to broaden your own expertise and skill sets. Collaboration with others also creates more opportunities for publication – publishing makes you more marketable for both academic and industry positions.

Funding
All MS degree students are eligible for financial support as a Research Assistant or Teaching Assistant. However, such funding is very competitive and primarily awarded to doctoral degree seeking students. Please discuss your options with a faculty member and plan accordingly.

Conference Travel
Another way to expand your expertise and curriculum vita (or resume) is to attend and present at academic and professional conferences. Travel support is available through several sources, including the Graduate Education office and the Graduate and Professional Student Association at Arizona State University. There are also funds available through the Polytechnic School for students who are traveling to present their work at a conference.

- http://graduate.asu.edu/travelgrants.html
- http://www.asu.edu/gpsa/funding/travel.html
In some cases, a faculty member or your advisor may be able to cover some or all of your travel expenses via grant funding (if your travel pertains to the grant). However, you should not assume that your travel costs will be covered unless clearly indicated by a faculty sponsor.

In many cases, your faculty sponsor will expect you to seek out as many other resources for travel funding before requesting grant support. Be thorough and aggressive in seeking out funding sources – many of them are associated with awards and grants that further boost your curriculum vita!

**Human Systems Engineering Subject Pool**
A potentially valuable resource for conducting research and data collection is the HSE Psychology Subject Pool. Undergraduate students who are enrolled in select classes (e.g., Introduction to Psychology) are required to participate in research studies as a learning experience. Thus, these students become a pool of potential participants in your research.

To include your study in this program you will need to contact the Subject Pool Coordinator (Dr. Scotty Craig, scotty.craig@asu.edu) for instructions and approval. You will need to specify the number of participants needed, the amount of time needed for your study per participant, and a letter of approval from the Institutional Review Board (IRB). Scheduling for subject pool studies is handled online via an ASU SONA systems account (https://asup.sona-systems.com/).

**How Long Should I Take to Graduate?**
A reasonable timeframe to graduate is about two years: four full-time semesters, not including any courses taken during the summer semester. The maximum time to complete the Master’s degree is six years as per Arizona State University policy. Use your time wisely and productively to publish, build a strong curriculum vita, and develop your portfolio.

Please refer to the **Milestones and Timeline** section for additional information.

**Academic & Faculty Advising**
The Polytechnic School Graduate Advising Office is responsible for advising all MS in Manufacturing Engineering students with respect to progress toward the degree as well as program, school, college, and university-wide ASU Policies and Procedures. Questions involving details of academic content in courses, professional practice, and research can be discussed with faculty advisors or the Graduate Program Chair.

**Graduate Academic Advising**
Meghan Vaughn  
Graduate Academic Advisor  
Wanner Hall, Second Floor  
polygrad@asu.edu  
480-727-1874

**Graduate Program Chair**
Dr. Nancy Cooke  
Professor and Graduate Program Chair, HSE  
Santa Catalina 150B  
nancy.cooke@asu.edu  
480-727-5158
About the Polytechnic School
The Polytechnic School is making a new higher education experience, one that focuses on learning through making things and solving real-world challenges through collaboration. At the Polytechnic School, we believe how you learn and teach is as important as what you learn and teach. We are committed and contributing to ASU’s vision of the New American University – an institution that is committed to excellence, access, and impact.

The Polytechnic School is located in Mesa, which is the state’s third-largest city and part of the Greater Phoenix area. The 600-acre ASU Polytechnic campus is built in a beautiful desert arboretum and is home to more than 3,300 students studying in undergraduate and graduate majors. The Polytechnic School is home to some of the most innovative engineering and technology programs in the country and some of the most advanced learning laboratories available to students on any university campus.

The programs thrive under the guidance of more than 100 outstanding faculty members with deep expertise in many of the most important challenges that society faces.

Visit the Polytechnic School website at poly.engineering.asu.edu. For more in-depth information about the programs offered through the Polytechnic School as well as the application process and other pertinent information, you are encouraged to explore the overview of the graduate programs.

Graduate Programs
The Polytechnic School’s graduate students learn in an environment that blends management, applied sciences, and engineering and technology fields to create applications, systems, and solutions that meet real-world needs. We engage in research that matters. As part of the Polytechnic School masters programs, applied projects, theses, and research are degree components and complement students’ theoretical and practical understanding. The Polytechnic School doctoral programs include separate degree components, all of which are outlined in each program’s handbook.

Masters Degrees
Aviation Management and Human Factors, MSTech in Technology
Engineering, MS
Environmental and Resource Management, MS
Environmental and Resource Management (Water Management), MS
Graphic Information Technology, MSTech in Technology
Human Systems Engineering, MS
Information Technology, MS
Management of Technology, MSTech in Technology
Manufacturing Engineering, MS
User Experience, MS

Doctoral Degrees
Engineering Education Systems and Design, Ph.D.
Human Systems Engineering, Ph.D.
Systems Engineering, Ph.D.

Programs No Longer Admitting Students
Environmental Technology Management, MSTech in Technology
Global Technology and Entrepreneurship, MSTech in Technology

Purpose of this Handbook
The purpose of this handbook is to provide guidance and information related to admission, degree requirements, and general policies and procedures for graduate students in the Polytechnic School. Students must adhere to policies of both the Polytechnic School and the Graduate College. Policies and this handbook are subject to change at any time; students will be notified.

Student Responsibility
Graduate students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with all university and graduate policies and procedures as well as applicable deadlines. Each student should also communicate directly with his/her academic unit to be clear on its expectations for degree completion. Graduate students are responsible for frequently checking their My ASU account and asu.edu email for the most up-to-date information regarding their status, holds, items to attend to, and other important information.

Facilities and Labs
The core facilities, laboratories, and centers in the Polytechnic School provide the ideal environments for teaching, research, and discovery. State-of-the-art equipment and technologies help students increase their knowledge and experience and provide support for the use-inspired research conducted by the school’s faculty and students. Learn more by visiting: Labs and Facilities.

Faculty
Faculty members have significant expertise in many of the most important challenges that society faces. Many members of the faculty bring considerable industry experience to bear on their teaching and research. To learn more about the faculty, you may refer to the Polytechnic School Directory.

Graduate Advising
Graduate student advising is located on the Polytechnic campus in Wanner Hall on the second floor. For more information about the Polytechnic School graduate programs or the policies in this
handbook, contact the graduate advising office at polygrad@asu.edu or 480-727-1874.

Accelerated Bachelor’s + Master’s Degree Program (4+1)

The Polytechnic School offers accelerated BS/MS and BSE/MS programs for students currently enrolled in an approved undergraduate program. This allows students to graduate with both degrees within five years of full-time coursework.

If you are interested to see if your program is part of the accelerated (4+1) program offerings, visit 4+1 Degree Programs and contact the Polytechnic School Graduate Advising office at polygrad@asu.edu to discuss your 4+1 options. Please note that in addition to credit hour requirements, applicants must also have a cumulative ASU GPA of 3.20 or higher at the time of application to be considered. Admission into the accelerated programs is not guaranteed and an application is required to be considered.

4+1 Probation Policy

Students in the accelerated BS/MS and BSE/MS programs are required to maintain a minimum 3.20 cumulative undergraduate ASU GPA on a 4.0 scale, at the time of application and through the completion of the undergraduate degree requirements. In addition, students in the accelerated BS/MS and BSE/MS programs are also required to maintain a 3.0 GPA for all coursework on the graduate plan of study (including shared 400-level courses) and all 500-level coursework.

Students in the accelerated program who, upon their undergraduate graduation date, do not maintain a minimum 3.2 cumulative undergraduate ASU GPA on a 4.0 scale will be able to continue into the graduate portion of the accelerated program, but will neither be able to share the credits noted on the 4+1 Agreement nor be able to select other courses to share. Students in this situation will still need to complete the full requirements of their respective graduate degree.

Students in the accelerated program who do not maintain a 3.0 minimum GPA in their shared coursework will be placed on probation upon entering the graduate program. Students in this situation will be notified of their probation status and the steps needed to lift the probation.

Students who violate both requirements will not be permitted to continue on to the graduate portion of the 4+1 Accelerated Program and will consequently be removed from both the 4+1 Accelerated Program as well as the respective graduate program.
Grades
To be eligible for graduation and the completion of a graduate degree, a student must achieve a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or better in three different grade point average calculations. The three different grade point averages that are considered by Graduate College and the Polytechnic School are as follows: (1) the grade point average in all courses numbered 500 or higher that appear on the transcript, except those that were listed as deficiencies in the original letter of admission, (2) the grade point average in all coursework that appears on the approved program of study, and (3) the grade point average in all coursework taken at ASU post baccalaureate.

Transfer credits are not calculated on the Plan of Study (iPOS) GPA or the Graduate GPA. Courses with grades of “D” (1.00) and “E” (0.00) cannot appear on the iPOS but will be included when calculating the Graduate GPA. Courses with an “I” grade cannot appear on the iPOS.

A student who is not progressing satisfactorily toward a degree will be withdrawn from the program by the Dean of the Graduate College upon recommendation by the Fulton Schools of Engineering Dean’s office. The policy of the Polytechnic School for academic probation and dismissal of graduate students is outlined below.

Satisfactory progress is defined by the quality of the student’s work, that it does not have any academic and progress probationary issues, and that the student is meeting all requirements and/or milestones applicable to their program. Specifically for Doctoral students, this also includes the successful completion of the qualifying and comprehensive exams, as determined by their program. In addition to the probationary rules, satisfactory progress includes appropriate communication each semester with the student’s Committee Chair regarding his or her progress, if applicable.

Students in the accelerated degree programs (4+1) will have separate requirements to meet while completing their undergraduate degree. See accelerated bachelor’s + master’s degree program (4+1) section above for more information. Once students are in the graduate portion of the program (and have completed their undergraduate degree), they must meet the graduate academic expectations outlined in this section.

Academic Performance Standards
To meet the Polytechnic School academic performance requirements, all students admitted to a graduate degree program in the Polytechnic School must adhere to all of the following:

All students admitted to a graduate degree program in the Polytechnic School, either on a regular or provisional admission status, must maintain a 3.0 or higher grade point average (GPA) in:

1. All work taken for graduate credit (courses numbered 500 or higher),
2. Coursework in the student’s approved plan of study (iPOS), and
3. All course work taken at ASU (overall GPA) post baccalaureate.

Earn a “C” or better in all iPOS (plan of study) courses. Grades of “W” and “I” are not acceptable on the iPOS and may be considered lack of satisfactory progress if more than one occurrence during the students’ graduate program of study. Programs may invoke a higher standard, e.g., no courses with a C may be included on the iPOS.

Meet the terms of the ASU Graduate College satisfactory progress policies as outlined at: ASU Graduate Policies and Procedures.

**Evaluation of Academic Performance Requirements**

After each semester, the academic unit reviews students’ files for satisfactory progress towards completion of the degree. All students are placed under one of the three categories:

- **Satisfactory Progress** means that the student does not have any academic and progress probationary issues. In addition to the probationary rules, satisfactory progress includes appropriate communication each semester with the student’s Committee Chair regarding his or her progress, if applicable.

- **Academic Probation** pertains to grades that fall below those required by Program and University policies, including graduation requirements. The following are notices/letters the student will receive if one of these pertains to their academics:
  - **Grade Point Average**
    - GPA below 3.0 in approved iPOS courses
    - Overall post baccalaureate GPA below 3.0
    - Overall graduate (500 level or above) GPA below 3.0
  - **Deficiency Course(s)**
    - Lack of progress toward completion of required deficiencies as listed on the admission letter
    - Received a “D” or “E” in a required deficiency course or in a course at the 400 level or above
    - Deficiency GPA below 3.0

Students placed on academic probation will have nine (9) credits or one year, whichever comes first, to meet Satisfactory Progress and GPA requirements as outlined above.

- A student will be recommended for **Withdrawal** from the program if she or he fails to meet the probationary standards outlined in their probationary letter. The student will receive a letter from the Polytechnic School explaining the reasons for recommendation for withdrawal. The student will have five (5) business days from the date of the letter to appeal the decision. The department’s Graduate Affairs Committee (GAC) will review the appeal and will make the necessary recommendation. The GAC Chair, on behalf of the GAC, will provide a written explanation of the outcome of the appeal.
  - If the outcome is favorable, the student will have to meet all the outlined requirements at the end of the specified period. The student will be required to
sign an agreement acknowledging the recommendations of the GAC and the consequences if the agreements are not met.

- If the GAC recommends that the appeal is not granted in favor of the student, the GAC Chair, on behalf of the GAC, will recommend to the Fulton Schools of Engineering (FSE) Dean’s Office to withdraw the student from the graduate program. The student’s appeal will then be reviewed by the FSE Academic Standards Committee, which reviews the student’s case and makes the final recommendation on behalf of the FSE Dean’s Office and the department. If the appeal is not granted in favor of the student, the Fulton Schools of Engineering Dean’s Office will recommend to the Graduate College to withdraw the student from the graduate program. Please refer to the Graduate College catalog for policies and procedures or contact the graduate advisor in the Polytechnic School with further questions.

Plan of Study (iPOS)
The Plan of Study (iPOS) functions as a contract between the student, the academic unit, and the Graduate College. The iPOS contains certain degree requirements such as core and elective coursework as well as a culminating experience, which must be included in the iPOS before it can be approved. Students should submit an iPOS after registering for their second semester in the program. Students must submit an iPOS before completing 50 percent of the credit hours required for their degree program. A student is not eligible to apply for the comprehensive examination, portfolio, or enroll in the thesis or applied project course without an approved iPOS.

A student can access the iPOS by visiting My ASU > My Programs > iPOS > Graduate Interactive Plan of Study (iPOS). Please reference our iPOS Overview for in-depth information on what must be included on the iPOS.

Time Limit for Degree Completion
All work toward a master’s degree must be completed within six consecutive years. Doctoral students must complete all program requirements within a ten-year period. The time period begins with the semester and year of admission to the program. Graduate courses taken prior to admission that are included on the Plan of Study must have been completed within three years of the semester and year of admission to the program. See the ASU Graduate Policies and Procedures for more information.

Continuous Enrollment and Leave of Absence Policies
Once admitted to a graduate degree program, students must be registered for a minimum of one credit hour of graduate-level coursework (not audit) during each fall and spring semester of their graduate education. Summer registration is required for students taking examinations, completing culminating experiences, conducting a doctoral prospectus, defending theses or dissertations, or graduating from the degree program in that semester. This credit must appear on the Plan of Study or must be an appropriate graduate-level course (e.g. 595, Continuing Registration). Courses with
grades of “W” and “X” are not considered valid registration for continuous enrollment purposes.

Students planning to discontinue enrollment for a semester or more must request approval for a leave of absence through the Plan of Study (iPOS) petition titled Request to Maintain Continuous Enrollment. The Graduate College allows for a leave of absence for a maximum of two semesters during a student’s entire program. A petition for a leave of absence (Request to Maintain Continuous Enrollment), endorsed by the student’s faculty advisor and the department chair, must be approved by the Graduate College. This request must be submitted and approved before the start of the semester of the anticipated absence.

An approved leave of absence will enable students to re-enter their program without reapplying to the university and the graduate program. Students who do not enroll for a fall or spring semester and do not have an approved Request to Maintain Continuous Enrollment are considered withdrawn from the university under the assumption that they have decided to discontinue their program. A student removed for this reason may reapply for admission to resume their degree program; the application will be considered along with all other new applications to the degree program.

A student with a Graduate College-approved Request to Maintain Continuous Enrollment is not required to pay tuition and/or fees, but in turn is not permitted to place any demands on university faculty or use any university resources. See the ASU Graduate Policies and Procedures for more information.

**Graduate College Policies and Procedures**

All graduate students are expected to read, understand and meet the terms of the ASU Graduate College Policies and Procedures handbook as outlined at: ASU Graduate Policies and Procedures.

**Applying for Graduation**

We encourage you to familiarize yourself with the process of applying for graduation to ensure that you are prepared when the time comes. The University has specific deadlines each semester for submitting the Graduation application. To view the specific deadline for your graduation term, log into your MyASU and click on the Graduation tab. Please also be sure to review the Graduate College graduation deadlines and procedures as well. All students must have an approved and up-to-date iPOS on file in order to apply for graduation.

**General ASU Information**

**Academic Calendar**

Students are responsible for meeting all deadlines set within the ASU Academic Calendar. The
calendar can be found at students.asu.edu/academic-calendar.

**Student Code of Conduct**
The aim of education is the intellectual, personal, social, and ethical development of the individual. The educational process is ideally conducted in an environment that encourages reasoned discourse, intellectual honesty, openness to constructive change, and respect for the rights of all individuals. Self-discipline and a respect for the rights of others in the university community are necessary for the fulfillment of such goals. The Student Code of Conduct is designed to promote this environment at Arizona State University.

The Student Code of Conduct sets forth the standards of conduct expected of students who choose to join the university community. Students who violate these standards will be subject to disciplinary sanctions in order to promote their own personal development, to protect the university community, and to maintain order and stability on campus.

All students are expected to adhere to the ABOR Student Code of Conduct.

**Academic Integrity**
The highest standards of academic integrity and compliance with the university’s Student Code of Conduct are expected of all graduate students in academic coursework and research activities. The failure of any graduate student to uphold these standards may result in serious consequences, including suspension or expulsion from the university and/or other sanctions as specified in the academic integrity policies of the Polytechnic School as well as the University.

Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to: cheating, fabrication of data, tampering, plagiarism, or aiding and/or facilitating such activities. At the graduate level, it is expected that students are familiar with these issues and take personal responsibility in their work. It is the student’s responsibility to become familiar with the academic integrity policies of the university and Graduate College.

**Department and University Resources**
- Academics and Professional Development
  - ASU libraries
  - Career Centers (both ASU and Fulton Schools of Engineering)
  - Graduate and Professional Student Association
  - Polytechnic School graduate student resources and forms
  - Professional development
  - Writing Center
- Student Support Services
  - Counseling
  - Disability Resources
  - Health
- Housing
- International Student Services
- Veterans

- Business and Finance services
  - ASU ID cards
  - ASU bookstore
  - Parking and Transit
  - Student accounts

**Contact Information**
For more information about the Polytechnic School graduate programs or the policies in this handbook, contact the graduate advising office at polygrad@asu.edu or 480-727-1874.
Annual Self-Evaluation Guide
MS Human Systems Engineering

Background

Provide names and contact information for yourself and your advisor. If applicable, provide the names and contact information for your committee, and provide the title (or a working title) for the thesis or applied project.

Coursework

Briefly describe your progress toward completing the required coursework. List the core courses and elective courses have you taken.

Research

Briefly describe the research that you have conducted. Include any research you have contributed to as part of a paid assistantship (i.e., grant funded), HSE 592: Research, HSE 593: Applied Project, HSE 599: Thesis, and/or independently.

Attach an up-to-date curriculum vita or resume. Please highlight the publications that you have contributed to, such as articles, chapters, proceedings, or technical reports.

Professional Development

Briefly describe your engagement in professional development activities. Describe your participation in weekly brown bag seminars, conferences, workshops, and/or academic and professional organizations.

Overall Evaluation

Based on your responses to the above questions, briefly reflect on your overall progress and success in the program. What do you feel are your best strengths and achievements? What areas could benefit from improvement, more effort, or a new approach?

Future Plans

What are your future plans and goals for your coursework, research, and professional development? What courses will you take? How will you advance your research agenda? What professional development opportunities will you seek out?

If you will graduate in the coming year, what are your academic or career plans? Will you apply to doctoral programs? Where might you apply for jobs?