DOCTORATE
IN HUMAN CENTERED DESIGN & ENGINEERING

The PhD in Human Centered Design & Engineering (HCDE) at the University of Washington provides unparalleled depth and experience for students interested in researching the conception, design, implementation, evaluation, and effects of technologies. HCDE faculty and students are advancing the study and practice of design to improve cognition, behavior, engagement, and participation among individuals, groups, organizations, and communities of people.

HCDE doctoral students come from a variety of professional and academic backgrounds, such as computer science, design, engineering, and social sciences. Graduates are prepared for careers as independent scholars and leaders in the field, securing jobs both in academia and industry.

RESEARCH
Our approaches are interdisciplinary but fundamentally sociotechnical: we investigate the interaction of people’s practices and meanings with technology. HCDE’s research and teaching focus on six areas of study:
» Influencing awareness, thinking, and behavior
» Design for emergent collaborations and organizations
» Low resource and underserved populations
» Material and embodied technologies
» Data science and data visualization
» Learning in professional and technical environments

HCDE PhD students conduct research closely with faculty and peers across degree programs in Directed Research Groups and other independent projects.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES & GOALS
The objectives and goals of the Human Centered Design & Engineering doctoral program are:
» To create an educational experience centered around active-learning and formal research groups
» To prepare graduates for careers as innovators and intellectual leaders in both academia and industry
» To emphasize the application of research results to design problems
» To foster a multi-disciplinary learning environment by collaborating with units across the University, including the Information School, Computer Science & Engineering, and the School of Art
» To further the advancement of new knowledge in the field of human-centered design

LEARN MORE
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