HUMAN-CENTERED DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT, B.S. (INFORMATION SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY)

Begin Campus: Abington, Altoona, Berks, Beaver, Brandywine, DuBois, Erie, Fayette, Greater Allegheny, Harrisburg, Hazleton, Lehigh Valley, Mont Alto, New Kensington, Shenango, Schuylkill, University Park, Wilkes-Barre, Scranton, York

End Campus: University Park

Program Description

The Human-Centered Design and Development major (HCDD) in the College of Information Sciences and Technology is a Bachelor of Science degree program that will educate students in the fundamental concepts and state-of-the-art skills in developing applications of technology for people, with a focus on learning outcomes needed to: a) identify opportunities to support human activity with technology; b) design and create useful and usable technology-mediated activities; and c) evaluate and iterate designed technologies in their context of use. Students graduating with a degree in HCDD will be positioned for successful careers in industry, government, and education, helping to ensure that our world of increasingly complex and pervasive technologies remains aligned with human aspirations, requirements, and limitations.

The HCDD major is interdisciplinary, combining foundational coursework in mathematics, statistics, information technology, and application development with specialized courses in social and psychological aspects of information and technology use, usability engineering, user research methods, and user interface design. The major draws on courses already taught as part of the IST BS degree, but also includes new courses that expand the user-centered analysis and design concepts and methodological rigor needed to succeed as an HCDD professional.

What is Human-Centered Design and Development?

Human-Centered Design and Development is the study of how to identify, design, build, and evaluate technologies to enhance people's lives. The field focuses on understanding people and their use of technology, the methods and tools used for designing and building effective technology solutions, and the modern information technologies used to create effective solutions. The field involves working with potential users and customers to understand their needs and unique contexts, and then how to design, build, and evaluate impactful products and services. Human-centered design and development integrates ideas from design thinking, human-computer interaction (HCI), interaction design, and user experience design with the skills and techniques needed for software development.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HUMAN-CENTERED DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT (https://ist.psu.edu/prospective/undergraduate/academics/hcdd/)

You Might Like This Program If...

- You are passionate about designing and building interactive technologies
- You want to design, build, and evaluate web, mobile, and other software applications
- You enjoy working with people to understand how they live and how technology fits into their lives
- You want to design, conduct, and interpret data from user studies
- You embrace uncertainty and change, and are not afraid to fail on the path to getting things right

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT WHY STUDENTS CHOOSE TO STUDY HUMAN-CENTERED DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT (https://ist.psu.edu/prospective/undergraduate/academics/hcdd/)