



# Girl Centered Design

## Description

In this four module course, you will be introduced to Girl Centered Design and have the opportunity to practice some of the steps with your own design team. Through this course you will understand why a focus on girls is essential to solving the problems in many communities, and you will learn how to design a solution for a problem facing girls in your community by working with the girls you are designing for.

## You Will Learn How To:

- Understand the power of evidence in making a case for the need to work with girls to solve their problems
- Identify the problem you want to solve and which girls you should serve given this problem
- Gain new methods to learn from experiences of girls so that your interventions best address their barriers
- Work with girls to design solutions to their problem

## Curriculum

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### Module 1: Why Girls & What is Girl Centered Design?

**Recommended Schedule:** Start by August 20th | Finish by August 26th

**Description:** In this module, you will first clarify why focusing on girls is so important when trying to solve complex social problems. Then you will be introduced to a strategy for solving these complex problems known as Girl Centered Design.

**Assignment:** Highlight Your Evidence

**Suggested Due Date:**  
August 26th

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### Module 2: Find Her

**Recommended Schedule:** Start by August 27th | Finish by September 2nd

**Description:** If you are taking this course, you should have a problem in mind that in some way impacts the experiences of girls. You will start by narrowing in to specify the question that you will work to answer. Once you have articulated your design question, you will dive into the first stage of Girl Centered Design: “find her.” You will work to identify and recruit the girl most impacted by this question.

**Assignment:** Frame Your Design Challenge  
**Brainstorm Session:** What You Already Know

**Suggested Due Date:**  
September 2nd



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### Module 3: Listen to Her

**Recommended Schedule:** Start by September 3rd | Finish by September 9th

**Description:** In this module, you will explore the second stage of Girl Centered Design, “listen to her.” First, you will make sure that your design team is ready to listen. Then, you will learn methods and tools that will help you go into the field and discover your girl’s lived experience.

**Assignments:** Map Research Questions to Methods & Tools  
Identify Interview Questions

**Suggested Due Date:**  
September 9th

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### Module 4: Design with Her

**Recommended Schedule:** Start by September 10th | Finish by September 16th

**Description:** In this final module, you will learn to take your observations from listening to your girl and turn them into insights that can help inform a solution for her. Then you will learn the creative process of generating solutions based on those insights.

**Assignment:** Create Insights, Solutions & Prototype Plans

**Suggested Due Date:**  
September 16th

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## Course Partner

### GirlSPARKS by Mercy Corps

Powered by Mercy Corps, GirlSPARKS is a global training and coaching hub, using girl-centered design to help practitioners build their skills, knowledge and approaches to deliver more effective programming to marginalized girls in challenging environments. Mercy Corps is a leading global organization powered by the belief that a better world is possible. Through GirlSPARKS, Mercy Corps is committed to helping grassroots practitioners at different levels of capacity to improve, consolidate and spread good practices with the ultimate goal of benefitting adolescent girls and their communities.

## Certification

The University is a non-degree, diploma or credit granting initiative. Philanthropy U, Inc. is the concept developer and sponsor of the initiative. Learners are not entitled to earn college or other academic credit.

Learners are eligible to receive a Certificate of Achievement for this course. To earn a Certificate of Achievement for this course, you need to earn more than 50% of possible points on quizzes and assignments to obtain a passing grade. Quizzes are worth 15% of your total score, while assignments are worth 85%.