

Welcome to the Foresight program at the University of Houston (UH). The UH Certificate of Foresight is offered twice annually in Houston. This document contains a synopsis of the curriculum and objectives for each module. Please contact Dr. Andy Hines at ahines@uh.edu or 832.367.5575 if you would like to learn more about the certificate program.

UNIVERSITY of **HOUSTON** | TECHNOLOGY



FORESIGHT

University of Houston College of Technology
Foresight Program

+ Houston Foresight:
Preparing
Professional
Futurists

Objectives

The discipline of Foresight helps people anticipate and influence change. While the future is unpredictable, understanding the dynamics of change and the plausible ways in which it could occur is the way to build the confidence and desire to be prepared for the changes that are to come. What is more, the ability to influence those changes, countering threats and capitalizing on opportunities, requires leaders with a compelling vision and a useful and flexible strategic plan to create transformational change.

UNDERSTANDING THE FUTURE

Change

Categorizing change using four dimensions – source, level, time horizon and rate – in order to build an overall model of change.

Systems Thinking

How futurists envision change as the manifestation of the underlying system that generates the change.

Social Change

Historical and contemporary theories of social change are explored to understand how "big" change happens.



Alternative Perspectives

An exploration of leading-edge foresight methods for going “broader and deeper” in analyzing issues, including Integral Futures and Causal Layered Analysis, plus an examination of patterns of change in individual values that influence how futures are interpreted and prioritized.

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Framing

The beginning of a foresight project by setting the boundaries, timeframe, and mapping the domain.



Scanning

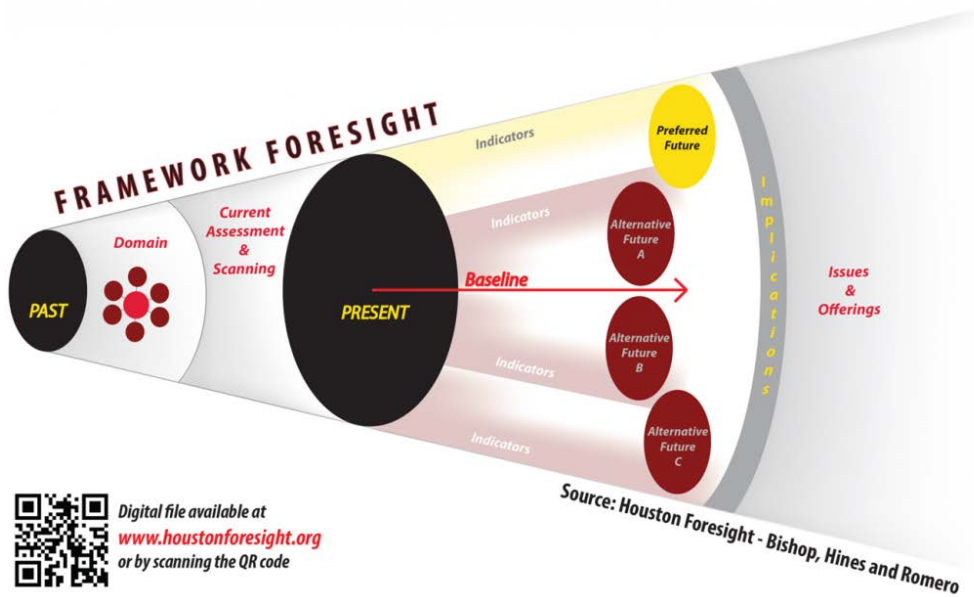
The process of looking for the signals of change before they become apparent to others. Also includes research.

Forecasting

Using the research and scanning hits to create descriptions or stories about the future.

Work sessions(optional)

Participants can arrange a half-hour discussion with one of the instructors to talk about the project required for the optional Certificate of Achievement, or use the time to just talk about a work project, personal plans, or whatever.



Baseline Analysis

A specific process to critically evaluate the evidence and assumptions that support the Baseline Future.

Scenario Development

The various methods used to generate scenarios and the most compelling ways to present them.

INFLUENCING THE FUTURE

Implications Analysis

Identifying and prioritizing the implications of scenarios that in turn lead to the identification of strategic issues or opportunities, and options for responding to them.

Leadership

Visionaries who advocate for a new era and enroll others in the campaign to create that era.

Vision

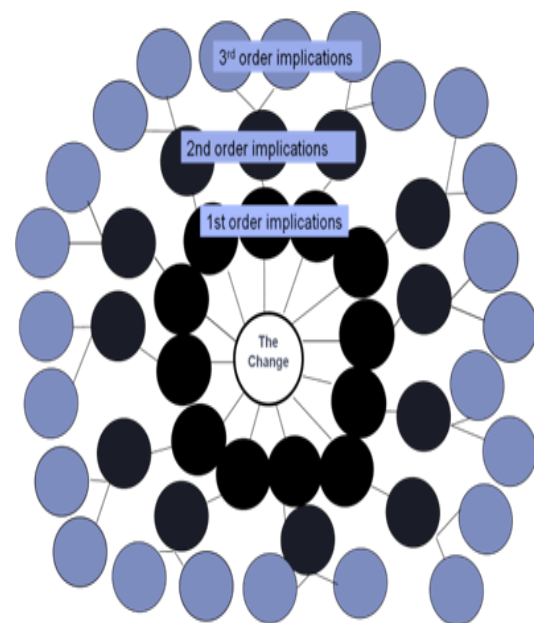
A compelling image of the preferred future that motivates others to enroll in the campaign to achieve that vision.

Issue and Goal-Based Planning

Identifying and characterizing strategic issues that feed into a formal strategic planning process.

Foresight Maturity Model

A method for assessing the maturity of an enterprise's foresight practices.



All sessions are held in small, lecture-discussion groups. Small group exercises are interspersed throughout the course to investigate the topics more thoroughly and apply the techniques learned more skillfully.