Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. What is the Toronto Metropolitan CS Design Solutions Super Course?

The **CS Design Solutions Super Course** is a unique, interdisciplinary program where student teams collaborate to solve real-world challenges presented by industry and community partners. Using a **design-thinking approach**, students work across disciplines—including design, media, computer science, and communications—to develop innovative solutions.

The Super Course runs from **January to April**, guiding student teams through:

- **Problem identification** and defining key challenges
- **Developing solution concepts** based on research and user needs
- **Prototyping ideas** with the support of **mentorship from industry, community, and academic experts**

This practice-based course offers students hands-on experience in problem-solving, strategic thinking, and cross-disciplinary collaboration.

2. What is Design Thinking?

Design thinking is a creative approach to problem-solving that focuses on understanding the needs of the people you're designing for. It involves brainstorming ideas, creating rough drafts or models (called prototypes), and testing those ideas to see what works best.

3. Who participates in the Super Course?

Students from **all schools within TMU's Creative School** participate in the Super Course, including those studying:

- Fashion
- Interior Design
- Media Production
- Image Arts
- Professional Communication
- Creative Industries
  Additionally, students from **Engineering, Computer Science, Business, and Entrepreneurship** have also taken part in past cohorts.

4. What types of projects have Super Course participants worked on?

Super Course teams have tackled diverse challenges across industries, including:

- **Ontario Ministry of Transportation:** Developing a video-game version of the Driver's Education Handbook
- **Hospitality Industry:** Creating a personal concierge app for hotel guests
- **Community-Engaged Arts Collective:** Designing tools to strengthen volunteer networks, including a retreat process, monthly support sessions, and an online communication tool
- **Arts Service Organization:** Developing an awareness campaign to help emerging artists document their work in lasting, archival formats

Some student participants have even been **hired by partner organizations** after the course to continue their work.

5. What happens after the Super Course?

From **April to August**, participating organizations will have the opportunity to:

- Explore student recommendations, refine and implement small solutions
- Take their solution in a new direction based on additional insights
- Seek funding or other resources to further develop their ideas

Throughout the summer, organizations will come together as a **cohort** to:

- Foster connections and share insights with other participant organizations
- Stay engaged with their challenge and accountable for implementation
- Continue developing their ideas with support from peers and program facilitators

This phase ensures that the work done during the Super Course has **lasting impact**, helping organizations move from concept to real-world action.

6. What happens to the intellectual property created during the Super Course?

- Intellectual property (IP) **belongs to its creators** (students, faculty, or applicant organizations).
- If IP is **jointly created** by TMU students, faculty, and the applicant organization, it will be **jointly owned**.
- Successful applicants to the program receive a **non-exclusive, royalty-free right** to use the results for **non-commercial purposes**, including sharing insights with other Toronto-based non-profit arts organizations.
- Any commercial use (sale or licensing) requires an **additional legal agreement**.