

IFTF Foresight Essentials

Live-Online Spring 2021 Schedule

IFTF Foresight Essentials is a one-of-a-kind course designed to help individuals and organizations develop their skills in the art and science of foresight. As a participant, you'll learn to filter information to determine its usefulness; transform urgent foresight into actionable insights; disrupt short-termism; and develop and test your own experiments in future-making. Upon completion, you'll be certified as a foresight practitioner, joining a community of like-minded visionaries dedicated to adopting strategic foresight practices.

Our primary virtual platform will be **Zoom**, with the additional use of **Miro**—a collaborative workspace—and **Crew**, an easy-to-use online learning platform designed specifically for IFTF Foresight Essentials courses. Participants are expected to complete approximately 2 hours of pre-work per session, including a mix of videos to watch, solo work, and buddy work.

Structured sessions include time for live instruction organized with IFTF's Prepare-Foresight-Insight-Action framework, IFTF office hours offered between Session 5 and 6, as well as 2 optional social hours to get to know your fellow participants.

April 7 – May 7, 2021
Pacific Standard Time
6 sessions, 5 weeks

Session One (Orientation)

Wednesday, April 7, 8am-9:30am PST

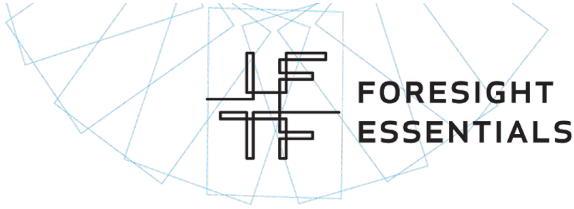
In our kickoff gathering we will spend time framing our upcoming learning journey as well as getting to know the others.

Session Two

Wednesday, April 14, 8am-12pm PST

PREPARE

Building on the pre-work videos exploring the fundamentals of foresight, session one focuses on how to prepare your evidence, frame futures questions, and open your mind for futures work. Through small group work and whole group discussion, we'll get to know each other and orient ourselves toward the basic skills and practices of strategic foresight.



OPTIONAL

TBD

“Sip & Chat” #1

Get to know your fellow foresight practitioners in this social hour hosted by IFTF.

Session Three

Wednesday, April 21, 8am-12pm PST

FORESIGHT

In session two we move into developing our own foresight and forecasts - “statements about the future that provoke insight in the present.” We explore a wide range of foresight approaches and practice the ability to analyze futures evidence. Through upbeat peer-to-peer interactions and group discussions, we focus on how to integrate these tools and processes into our day to day practice.

Session Four

Wednesday, April 28, 8am-12pm PST

INSIGHT

Session three describes the transition from Foresight to Insight - the “aha moment” when you draw meaningful connections between an outside-in view of the future and the work that you’re doing today. Insight tools include mapping the implications of foresight on various stakeholder groups or impact domains, and identifying waves of change.

OPTIONAL

TBD

Sip & Chat #2: PRACTITIONER INTERVIEW

What does foresight look like in practice? In our second optional session participants will get a chance to meet and ask questions of a special outside guest, who will share their experiences putting the tools of foresight to work.

Session Five

Wednesday, May 5, 8am-12pm PST

ACTION

In our final tool-based session, we discuss tools and processes for moving from Insight to Action. After all, the purpose of doing strategic foresight, in the end, is about taking different action in the present. We cover instructions, tools, and guidance for our capstone activity—an action plan for how you will weave the methodologies you have learned into a project that is meaningful to you. Participants can use the original project they had in mind or develop something entirely new.



OPTIONAL

Thursday, May 6, varying time slots

IFTF OFFICE HOURS

As participants work through their project planning, IFTF veterans will make themselves available to participants for 1-on-1 office hours and guidance sessions.

Session Six

Friday, May 7, 8am-12pm PST

FORESIGHT PRACTICE COACHING

We start our final session with an exercise that is consistently ranked as a highlight of the training session—peer feedback on action plans. In small groups, facilitated by IFTF faculty, participants share their plans, challenges, and questions. We gain insight into alternative ways to implement the tools and thoughtful commentary from peers and IFTF. And we participate in the final rite of the program—graduation—knowing that the community will continue to be a resource moving forward.

For further information and to register, please email register@iftf.org.

IFTF Foresight Essentials

Institute for the Future is the world's leading futures organization. Its training program, IFTF Foresight Essentials, is a comprehensive portfolio of strategic foresight training tools based upon 50 years of IFTF best practices. IFTF Foresight Essentials cultivates the mindset and skillset that enable individuals and organizations to foresee future forces, identify emerging imperatives, and develop world-ready strategies. IFTF Foresight Essentials is uniquely customizable for businesses, government agencies, and social impact organizations.