

Engineering student combines technical innovation with campus leadership

Grand Challenges Scholar chose ASU for its interdisciplinary approach to engineering, opportunities for students

By Joy Gaeraths, ASU News
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Editor's note: This story is part of a series of profiles of notable [spring 2026 graduates](#).

In search of a college that was a perfect fit, Shaurya Manglik was drawn to Arizona State University for its interdisciplinary approach to engineering and the opportunities available to students, including enrolling at the highly regarded [Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering](#). He wanted to pursue an interdisciplinary engineering degree.

A student in [Barrett, The Honors College](#), Manglik will graduate with a bachelor's degree in engineering, with a concentration in robotics, and a minor in technological entrepreneurship and management, offered through [The Polytechnic School](#), part of the Fulton Schools at ASU.

"Robotics engineering sits at the intersection of every discipline I care about — mechanical systems, embedded electronics, software and real-world physical impact," he says.

A [Grand Challenges Scholar](#), he chose sustainability as his focus because of the many related challenges facing the world today, ranging from climate change to food insecurity.

"For engineers and problem-solvers, sustainability presents an opportunity to design solutions that are not only efficient and scalable, but ethical, resilient and deeply human in their impact," Manglik says.

One accomplishment that he is very proud of is being the first international student to serve as ASU's student body president and making a concrete impact with policy changes, increasing student resources and showing that he belonged.

“It was a functioning executive role that carried real weight in every sense, representing 180,000 students, managing a budget over \$1 million, leading a team of more than 60 people and advocating at the U.S. Capitol alongside Sen. Mark Kelly,” Manglik says. “I was 18 years old, on an F-1 visa, and the students and institution trusted me with real responsibility.”

This leadership role made quite an impact on him, as he describes it as the most demanding leadership experience yet.

“You learn to operate with incomplete information, build coalitions and make decisions that affect people you’ll never meet,” he says. “That experience made me a sharper engineer because it forced me to think about systems at a scale where the stakes are not abstract.”

One project that he is proud of is a natural language-controlled robotic manipulation system he built around a Dobot robot arm. This project gave him hands-on experience and directly informed how he thought about industrial automation problems.

Upon graduation, Manglik will continue his time on the Polytechnic campus and continue pursuing an [Accelerated Master’s](#) degree program in robotics and autonomous systems.

In celebration of his graduation, we asked Manglik to share some of his favorite things:

Hobby: Photography and videography

Performer: The Weeknd

TV show: "Game of Thrones"

Sport: Badminton

Book: "Deception Point" by Dan Brown

This story originally appeared on [ASU News](#).

Text image(s)



Manglik-Shaurya, courtesy photo