SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES, ARTS, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

MIT’s mission of meeting the world’s great challenges requires both superb technical and scientific creativity, and a deep understanding of the human complexities—cultural, political, and economic—in which science and engineering issues are embedded.

The disciplines taught in MIT’s School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (SHASS) empower young students, thinkers, and citizens with historical and cultural perspectives, and with language, critical thinking, and communication skills—capacities that allow MIT students to create innovations and lives that are rich in meaning and wisdom.

The School is made up of the following departments, programs, and sections: Anthropology; Comparative Media Studies/Writing; Economics; Global Studies and Languages; History; Linguistics and Philosophy; Literature; Music and Theater Arts; Political Science; Science, Technology, and Society; and Women’s and Gender Studies.

Each year hundreds of MIT students graduate with majors and minors in over 20 SHASS fields. In addition, the School provides the majority of subjects used to fulfill the Institute’s Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Requirement. The object of the requirement, broadly stated, is to ensure that every undergraduate at MIT is exposed to a wide range of interpretive and analytic approaches in the humanities, arts, and social sciences.

Humanities, arts, and social science programs emphasize teaching, research, and performance. Through their publications, lectures, and seminars, the faculty strive to expand the frontiers of human knowledge and awareness. Interdisciplinary collaboration is a hallmark of this activity.

Research and Innovation

SHASS is home to research that has a global impact, and to superb graduate programs, all recognized as among the finest in the world. The School offers five doctoral programs in Economics; History, Anthropology, and Science, Technology and Society (HASTS); Linguistics; Philosophy; and Political Science. These are among the leading graduate programs of their kind in the world. They prepare students primarily for teaching and research careers in universities and colleges, but also for government service, industry, and finance. The School also offers master’s degrees in Comparative Media Studies, Economics, Political Science, and Science Writing.

Interdisciplinarity

In addition to the classical humanities, arts, and social sciences fields of study, the School houses three interdisciplinary programs: Comparative Media Studies/Writing; Science, Technology and Society; and Women’s and Gender Studies. Within the departments, programs, and sections, students may also study several interdisciplinary fields: Ancient and Medieval Studies, Applied International Studies, Public Policy, and five Regional Studies areas (African and African Diaspora Studies, Asian and Asian Diaspora Studies, Latin American and Latino Studies, Middle Eastern Studies, Russian and Eurasian Studies).

The interdepartmental centers, groups, and programs that reside in the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences include the following:

- Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Laboratory
- Center for International Studies
- Hyperstudio
- Knight Science Journalism Program
- MISTI
- Women’s and Gender Studies Program

See the Research and Study (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research) section for further information.

Global Citizens

The School has a central role in international education at MIT, and in preparing students to be leaders and good global citizens. The MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives (MISTI) program, located at the Center for International Studies, supports student internships in Belgium, Brazil, Chile, China, France, Germany, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Netherlands, Portugal, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, and Switzerland. Through MISTI, the School’s applied international education program, MIT students learn how to work, collaborate, and thrive in cultures around the globe. More locally, the Global Studies and Languages Section offers language and culture programs in Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish. The Japanese Language and Cultural Program has built the most technologically advanced Japanese language and culture education curriculum in the world, using online computer networks and interactive videos.

History

MIT’s Course 21 (Humanities) was considered innovative when it was established in the 1950s, although its roots go back to the opening of the Institute in 1865. During the 1960s the School grew rapidly, was reorganized into most of its current departments and sections, and began to grant full-scale degrees. In the 1970s and 1980s, the School continued to define separate programs and rearrange sections. In 1990 the School replaced the generic SB degree in Humanities with SB degrees in specified areas of humanistic study: Anthropology, History, Literature, Foreign Languages and Literatures, Music, and Writing. To reflect the growth and incorporation of the arts at MIT, and in celebration of its 50th
anniversary in 2000, the School changed its name to the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences.

Degrees Offered in the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences

**Anthropology (Course 21A)**
- SB: Anthropology

**Comparative Media Studies/Writing (Course CMS and Course 21W)**
- SB: Comparative Media Studies
- SB: Writing
- SM: Comparative Media Studies
- SM: Science Writing

**Economics (Course 14)**
- SB: Economics
- SM: Economics
- PhD: Economics

**Global Studies and Languages (Course 21G)**
- SB: Global Studies and Languages

**History (Course 21H)**
- SB: History

**Humanities (Course 21)**
- SB: Humanities
- SB: Humanities and Engineering
- SB: Humanities and Science

**Linguistics and Philosophy (Course 24)**
- SB: Linguistics and Philosophy
- SB: Philosophy
- PhD: Linguistics
- PhD: Philosophy

**Literature (Course 21L)**
- SB: Literature

**Music and Theater Arts (Course 21M)**
- SB: Music
- SB: Theater Arts

**Political Science (Course 17)**
- SB: Political Science

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<th>Program in Science, Technology, and Society (STS)</th>
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<tr>
<td>SB: Science, Technology, and Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>PhD: History, Anthropology, and Science, Technology, and Society</td>
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**Notes**

Many departments make it possible for a graduate student to pursue a simultaneous master’s degree.

**Admissions**

The selection process at MIT is holistic and student centered: each application is evaluated within its unique context. Selection is based on outstanding academic achievement as well as a strong match between the applicant and the Institute.

Undergraduate applicants do not apply to a particular school, department or program and, although the application asks about a preferred field of study, most admitted undergraduates do not declare a major until the second semester of their freshman year. Admissions information for regular, transfer, and non-degree applicants is provided in the section on Undergraduate Education (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/undergraduate-education).

Applicants for graduate study apply directly to the particular department or program of interest. See the individual department and program descriptions for specific requirements.

**Office of the Dean**

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