HISTORY OF SCIENCE, MEDICINE AND TECHNOLOGY, M.A.

One of the oldest, most prestigious academic programs of its kind in the United States, History of Science, Medicine, and Technology (HSMT) draws together faculty members in History and in Medical History and Bioethics (http://medhist.wisc.edu). Collectively, we offer broad coverage of the field, with expertise that spans Europe, the United States, Africa, and the Caribbean, stretches from the Middle Ages to the recent past, and ranges across the physical, biological, and social sciences to medicine and technology.

Our degree program in the History of Science, Medicine, and Technology is designed to meet the needs of the Ph.D. candidate, and we offer funding (https://history.wiscweb.wisc.edu/graduate/prospective-students/funding) only to students who intend to pursue the Ph.D. However, we also welcome applications from students who wish to earn only the M.A. if they have external funding or are self-funded. Students with doctoral training in one of the health professions may earn an M.A. in History of Medicine. It is also possible to earn a combined M.D./Ph.D. degree through the School of Medicine and Public Health’s Medical Scientist Training Program (https://www.med.wisc.edu/education/md-phd) and the HSMT degree program.

History of Science, Medicine, and Technology at UW–Madison is known for the strength and diversity of its areas of study and its warm, collegial environment. All historical aspects of science, medicine, and technology receive attention—from their internal development to their broader institutional, philosophical, religious, and literary contexts, as well as their relationships with print culture, visual culture, and material culture. Students and faculty regularly participate in the program’s weekly Brown Bag and monthly colloquium series, both of which provide opportunities to present work, discuss professional issues, and engage with a wide range of on-campus and outside speakers.

Graduate students come to the History of Science, Medicine, and Technology degree program from a variety of backgrounds in the sciences and humanities and with diverse professional goals. The program maintains a policy of maximum flexibility and, insofar as possible, tailors the work required for the degree to fit the individual. Students are encouraged to undertake work in related programs such as history, philosophy, science, and technology studies, and the various sciences.

ADMISSIONS

Please consult the table below for key information about this degree program’s admissions requirements. The program may have more detailed admissions requirements, which can be found below the table or on the program’s website. Graduate admissions is a two-step process between academic programs and the Graduate School. Applicants must meet the minimum requirements (https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements) of the Graduate School as well as the program(s).

Once you have researched the graduate program(s) you are interested in, apply online (https://grad.wisc.edu/apply).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Detail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall Deadline</td>
<td>December 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Deadline</td>
<td>This program does not admit in the spring.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Deadline</td>
<td>This program does not admit in the summer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRE (Graduate Record Examinations)</td>
<td>Required.*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Proficiency Test</td>
<td>Every applicant whose native language is not English or whose undergraduate instruction was not in English must provide an English proficiency test score and meet the Graduate School minimum requirements (<a href="https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/english-proficiency">https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/english-proficiency</a>).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Test(s) (e.g., GMAT, MCAT)</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters of Recommendation</td>
<td>Required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>* Applicants may request a waiver.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All applicants must meet UW–Madison Graduate School’s minimum applicant requirements (https://grad.wisc.edu/admissions/requirements), in addition to the History Graduate Program requirements.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 1ST

To apply, applicants must submit or declare the following in the online application (https://grad.wisc.edu/apply):

History Supplemental Application
This section of the application asks you to provide information about your research interests, declare your preferred faculty advisors, and outline your prior language preparation (if any).

Writing Sample
Provide a sample that best illustrates the quality of your written work (optimally no more than 50 pages, double-spaced; maximum file size 6 MB).

Transcripts
Upload an unofficial copy of your transcript from all institutions attended, showing any undergraduate and graduate degrees awarded. If accepted, you will be required to send two official transcripts from each institution.

Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores
GRE test scores are required for admission to our program, and the test must have been taken within the last 5 years. Students requesting a hardship waiver should contact the director of graduate studies in the Department of History.

CV or Résumé
This should highlight your accomplishments and qualifications including academic honors or distinctions; professional, research, and/or teaching experience; and any publications.

Letters of recommendation
Provide contact information for the three individuals who will furnish recommendations on your behalf. (They will receive an upload link by email.) Your letter writers need not be historians, but they should be able to speak to your academic preparation to pursue historical studies at the graduate level.
Statement of purpose
The statement of purpose (2–3 pages, double-spaced) explains your reasons for graduate study. It may be the hardest part of the application to write, but it is also the most important. While you will likely include some autobiographical information, its primary purpose is to acquaint us with how your mind works. We want to know, for example, what kinds of intellectual problems and issues interest you, whose stories intrigue you, what sorts of analytical or narrative approaches you like to pursue, which historical writings you admire—and your reasons for these various preferences. Please help us understand your decision to enter the historical profession, especially at a time when the academic job market is in decline, and how you see your own role in it. There is no single right way to approach this part of the application, but we suggest that you bear in mind the usual cautions for personal writing: speak straightforwardly, in your own voice, and write as well as you know how.

INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS
All international applicants must also meet the English Proficiency requirements (https://grad.wisc.edu/admissions/requirements) set forth by the Graduate School.

For additional detail about the admissions process, please visit the Prospective Student (https://history.wisc.edu/our-graduate-program/prospective-students) pages on our website.

FUNDING

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES
Resources to help you afford graduate study might include assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, and financial aid. Further funding information (https://grad.wisc.edu/funding) is available from the Graduate School. Be sure to check with your program for individual policies and processes related to funding.

PROGRAM RESOURCES
We offer funding only to students who intend to pursue the Ph.D.—an application for admission to our Ph.D. program, therefore, is an application for funding. We also welcome applications from students who have external funding or are self-funded, including those pursuing the M.A. only.*

MULTI-YEAR FUNDING PACKAGE
If you apply to the History of Science, Medicine, and Technology (HSMT) Ph.D. degree program without external or self-funding and are accepted, you will be offered a multiyear support package, which begins in your first year. The details of our support guarantees may vary by funding source, field of study, and other circumstances, and the guarantee is, of course, contingent on satisfactory progress and performance. Most of our support packages offer five years of support and begin with a fellowship year from the UW–Madison Graduate School, generously funded by the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (http://www.warf.org/stewardship/grants-support/current/current-grant.cmx). Our most distinguished packages include two years of fellowships:

• Graduate Research Scholar fellowships (http://ls.wisc.edu/current-students/graduate-students/cgrs) for underrepresented students or first-generation college students—offered annually
• John A. Neu Fellowship in the History of Science, Medicine, and Technology—offered as endowment income permits

Additional years of guaranteed funding will come from employment as teaching assistants or project assistants or additional fellowships.

COMPETING FOR ADDITIONAL SUPPORT
All students in good standing can apply for writing prizes, conference travel awards, and supplements to external awards. Once graduate students have passed their preliminary examination and advanced to candidacy, they may apply for various departmental fellowships and research travel funding.

Further funding opportunities are available to students who have reached the advanced stages of dissertation writing. Our advanced dissertators may apply for teaching fellowships that give them the opportunity to design and teach an undergraduate course—the Merle Curti Teaching Fellowship (https://history.wiscweb.wisc.edu/graduate/prospective-students/funding/merle-curti-teaching-fellowship) (open field), the George L. Mosse Teaching Fellowship in European History (https://mosseprogram.wisc.edu/fellowships), and the William J. Courtenay Teaching Fellowship in ancient, medieval, or early modern European history. The William Coleman Dissertation Fellowship in the History of Science (https://history.wisc.edu/our-graduate-program/current-students/funding-opportunities) supports one semester of advanced dissertation writing, as does the David and Greta Lindberg Distinguished Graduate Fellowship. (These fellowships are offered as often as endowment income permits.) Thanks to funding provided by the Doris G. Quinn Foundation (https://dorisgquinnfoundation.org), we are also pleased to offer a dissertation fellowship, which supports the final year of dissertation writing in any field.

In addition, UW–Madison offers a wealth of other opportunities to compete for funding offered, for example, by the International Division (http://international.wisc.edu/funding-your-international-experiences), the Institute for Research in the Humanities (http://irh.wisc.edu/fellowships/dissertation), and the UW Graduate School (research and conference travel awards (https://grad.wisc.edu/studentfunding/grantscomp)).

More details on our funding for current/continuing students are available here (https://history.wiscweb.wisc.edu/our-graduate-program/current-students/funding-opportunities).

* If you wish to apply only for the HSMT MA (also known as the terminal MA) or for the MA in History of Medicine for Health Professionals, please describe your sources of support on the History Supplemental Application. For information on the cost of graduate study at UW–Madison, see this link (https://grad.wisc.edu/admissions/cost).

REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS
Review the Graduate School minimum academic progress and degree requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/policiesandrequirementstext), in addition to the program requirements listed below.
MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Face to Face</th>
<th>Evening/Weekend</th>
<th>Online</th>
<th>Hybrid</th>
<th>Accelerated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mode of Instruction Definitions

**Evening/Weekend:** These programs are offered in an evening and/or weekend format to accommodate working schedules. Enjoy the advantages of on-campus courses and personal connections, while keeping your day job. For more information about the meeting schedule of a specific program, contact the program.

**Online:** These programs are offered primarily online. Many available online programs can be completed almost entirely online with all online programs offering at least 50 percent or more of the program work online. Some online programs have an on-campus component that is often designed to accommodate working schedules. Take advantage of the convenience of online learning while participating in a rich, interactive learning environment. For more information about the online nature of a specific program, contact the program.

**Hybrid:** These programs have innovative curricula that combine on-campus and online formats. Most hybrid programs are completed on-campus with a partial or completely online semester. For more information about the hybrid schedule of a specific program, contact the program.

**Accelerated:** These on-campus programs are offered in an accelerated format that allows you to complete your program in a condensed time-frame. Enjoy the advantages of on-campus courses with minimal disruption to your career. For more information about the accelerated nature of a specific program, contact the program.

CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

Requirements Detail

- Minimum Credit Requirement: 30 credits
- M.A.: 18 credits
- M.A. with history of medicine specialization: 24 credits
- 21 must be completed in graduate-level coursework in the HSMT graduate program; courses with the Graduate Level Coursework attribute are identified and searchable in the university's Course Guide (https://registrar.wisc.edu/course-guide/).
- Overall Graduate GPA Requirement: 3.00 (3.25 after 4th semester of full-time study).
- The Graduate School requires an average grade of B or better in all coursework (300 or above, not including research credits) taken as a graduate student unless conditions for probationary status require higher grades. Grades of Incomplete are considered to be unsatisfactory if they are not removed during the next enrolled semester.

Assessments and Examinations

In order to receive the master’s degree, students must pass the Second-Year Review (SYR). A passing review requires that students: complete a 35-page research paper, fulfill one language requirement, complete 30 graduate credits, clear all incompletes, fulfill any additional requirements for their specific field of study, submit a list of prelim fields along with a timeline for completing prelims, and receive a positive endorsement from the three faculty members on the review committee.

Language Requirements

- M.A.: Demonstrate, at a minimum, reading knowledge of
- M.A. with history of medicine specialization: No foreign language requirement.

REQUIRED COURSES

M.A. Course Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIST SCI 720</td>
<td>Proseminar: Historiography and Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HISTORY 701</td>
<td>History in a Global Perspective</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HISTORY 800</td>
<td>Research Seminar in History (or an equivalent research seminar)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One course in at least three of the following distribution areas:

- Science: Ancient through the Enlightenment
- Modern Science and Technology
- Medicine and Public Health
- Race, Gender, Class, and Religion in Science, Medicine, and Technology
- All HSMT Courses (http://guide.wisc.edu/courses/hist_sci)

Electives

Work with advisor to complete 11 additional credits in courses greater than 700

Total Credits: 30

History of Medicine Specialization

This specialization within the M.A. is intended for students with doctoral training in one of the health professions who wish to pursue a master’s degree in the history of medicine.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIST SCI 720</td>
<td>Proseminar: Historiography and Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST SCI/HISTORY/ MED HIST 504</td>
<td>Society and Health Care in American History</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST SCI/HISTORY/ MED HIST 507</td>
<td>Health, Disease and Healing I</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST SCI/HISTORY/ MED HIST 508</td>
<td>Health, Disease and Healing II</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STS 901</td>
<td>Science, Technology and Medicine in Society</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional History of Medicine course

All Medical History Courses (http://guide.wisc.edu/courses/med_hist)
GRADUATE SCHOOL POLICIES

The Graduate School’s Academic Policies and Procedures (https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy) provide essential information regarding general university policies. Program authority to set degree policies beyond the minimum required by the Graduate School lies with the degree program faculty. Policies set by the academic degree program can be found below.

MAJOR-SPECIFIC POLICIES

GRADUATE PROGRAM HANDBOOK


PRIOR COURSEWORK

Graduate Work from Other Institutions

M.A.: Total credits transferred for the M.A. degree may not exceed 12 credits. No credits earned more than five years before admission to the M.A. program may be used. No credits carrying a grade below B may be applied toward graduate credit requirements.

M.A. with history of medicine specialization\(^1\): Students can apply up to 6 credits from previous professional advanced degree work in one of the health professions toward the M.A. degree. No credits earned more than five years before admission to the M.A. program may be used. No credits carrying a grade below B are transferable.

UW–Madison Undergraduate

No credits from a previous undergraduate degree are allowed to count toward our graduate degree.

UW–Madison University Special

M.A.: With program approval, students are allowed to count up to 9 credits of coursework numbered 300 or above taken as a UW–Madison University Special student. Coursework earned five or more years prior to admission to a master’s degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements. No credits carrying a grade below B are transferable.

M.A. with history of medicine specialization\(^1\): No credits taken as a UW–Madison University Special student are allowed to count toward the degree.

PROBATION

The Graduate School regularly reviews the record of any student who earned grades of BC, C, D, F, or Incomplete in a graduate course (300 or above), or grade of U in research credits. This review could result in academic probation with a hold on future enrollment or in being suspended from the Graduate School.

ADVISOR / COMMITTEE

Every graduate student is required to have an advisor. An advisor is a faculty member, or sometimes a committee of advisors, from the major department responsible for providing advice regarding graduate studies. To ensure that students are making satisfactory progress toward a degree, the Graduate School expects them to meet with their advisor on a regular basis. Students can be suspended from the Graduate School if they do not have an advisor.

CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED

15 credits

TIME CONSTRAINTS

Master’s degree students who have been absent for five or more consecutive years lose all credits that they have earned before their absence. Individual programs may count the coursework students completed prior to their absence for meeting program requirements; that coursework may not count toward Graduate School credit requirements.

OTHER

Part time enrollment is permitted, full time preferred.

1 These tracks are internal to the program and represent different pathways a student can follow to earn this degree. Track names do not appear in the Graduate School admissions application, and they will not appear on the transcript.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

Take advantage of the Graduate School’s professional development resources (https://grad.wisc.edu/pd) to build skills, thrive academically, and launch your career.

PROGRAM RESOURCES

The Department of History is committed to training our students to develop skills required for a variety of careers both in and outside the academy. Although a large network of our alumni teach at colleges and universities in the U.S. and across the world, a number of our Ph.D.s have enjoyed considerable success outside the academy. They include recent graduates who are currently a museum curator, teachers at prestigious preparatory academies, a historian with the U.S. Secretary of Defense’s POW/Missing Persons Agency, a CEO of an investment firm, an analyst for a defense contractor, an editor at a small press, and consultants working with non-profits in the human services, education, and public policy fields. In recent years we have undertaken a number of initiatives, detailed below, to broaden the training of our students for a wide array of careers.

Much of the preparation for the job market occurs informally and over the course of the student’s graduate career—in the mentoring
relationship between faculty advisor and student, in the presentation of student research in department venues, in the student’s participation in professional conferences, and in early forms of professional publication. Coursework, such as for the minor requirement or certificates, can be an avenue to expanded competencies. The Center for Humanities, for example, offers a Public Humanities certificate (http://humanities.wisc.edu/public-humanities/graduate-certificate). Be sure to explore the Graduate School’s resources such as “The Versatile PhD (https://grad.wisc.edu/pd/versatilephd)” and its Professional Development pages (http://grad.wisc.edu/pd).

Whatever career paths interest you, we encourage you to plan ahead and discuss your options—early and often—with your faculty advisor(s), with the Director of Graduate Studies, or with the Graduate Coordinator.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EVENTS**

Throughout the year, the Graduate Program sponsors various workshops intended to help students negotiate specific milestones of graduate study and to assist them in preparing for and going on the job market as they near completion of the Ph.D. Our programming currently includes:

**Preliminary Examination Workshop**

This offers a discussion of the various requirements for preliminary examinations: how to assemble committees, compiling reading lists, Graduate School requirements, and more.

**Curriculum Vitae Workshops**

These workshops are designed for students at all levels, ranging from first-year students writing CVs for campus positions to advanced dissertators on the job market.

**Mock Interviews**

The Graduate Program offers a series of opportunities to practice with a committee of our faculty for AHA interviews and on-campus job talks. They are open to a limited number of students who expect to be actively on the job market in the fall.

**Careers in History Workshops**

Our program is committed to helping its graduates seek and secure employment following the completion of their Ph.D. Since the financial crisis in 2008, the academic job market has softened markedly. While the Graduate Program continues to provide outstanding preparation for academic jobs, we also encourage our students to think more broadly about their career prospects and the transferability of their skills. As funds permit, we occasionally bring to campus History graduates who are working in the non-profit, private, or public-sector to meet with current graduate students and share their experience. We also offer opportunities to learn best practices for post-doctoral fellowship applications.

---

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

1. Articulates, critiques, or elaborates the theories, research methods, and approaches to inquiry in HSMT.
2. Identifies sources and assembles evidence pertaining to questions or problems in HSMT.
3. Demonstrates understanding of science, medicine, and technology in a range of historical, social, cultural, and global contexts.
4. Chooses the most appropriate methodologies and practices for a chosen research project.
5. Demonstrates the ability to situate a historical question in relation to the existing literature, and to evaluate and synthesize information pertaining to questions or problems in HSMT.
6. Is able to construct a persuasive historical argument that makes an original contribution to historical knowledge.
7. Communicates clearly, in both written and oral form.
8. Recognizes and applies established principles of ethical and professional conduct.

**PEOPLE**

**Faculty:** Professors Boswell (chair), Cronon, Dennis, Desan, Enke, Enstad, Hansen, Hirsch, Hsia, Kantrowitz, Keller, Kleijwegt, Lederer, McCoy, McDonald, Michels, Mitman, Neville, Nyhart, Plummer, Reese, Roberts, Shoemaker, Sweet, Thal, Wandel, Young; Associate Professors Chan, Cheng, Enke, Hall, Houck, Ipsen, Kim, Kodesh, Murthy, Ratner-Rosenhagen, Taylor, Ussishkin; Assistant Professors Bitzan, Brown, Callaci, Chamedes, Ciancia, Glotzer, Gómez, Haynes, Hennessy, Iber, Jackson, Kinzley, Lapina, Murthy, Nelson, Stolz, Whiting

See our faculty profiles—alphabetical (https://history.wisc.edu/people-main/faculty-listed-alphabetically) and by specialty (https://history.wisc.edu/people-main/faculty-by-area-of-specialty).

**Faculty Affiliates and Teaching Associates:** Carlsson, Chopra, Clark-Pujara, Cullinane, Ermakoff, Greene, Keyser, Nelson (A.), Rider, Sharafi

See our faculty affiliate (https://history.wisc.edu/people-main/faculty-affiliates) and teaching associate (https://history.wisc.edu/people-main/teaching-associates) profiles.