History of Science, Medicine, and Technology, B.S.

Admissions to the History of Science, Medicine, and Technology B.S. have been suspended as of fall 2017 and will be discontinued as of fall 2020. If you have any questions, please contact the department (historydept@history.wisc.edu).

To study history is to study change: historians are experts in examining and interpreting human identities and transformations of societies and civilizations over time. They use a range of methods and analytical tools to answer questions about the past and to reconstruct the diversity of human experience: how profoundly people have differed in their ideas, institutions, and cultural practices; how widely their experiences have varied by time and place, and the ways they have struggled while inhabiting a shared world. Historians use a wide range of sources to weave individual lives and collective actions into narratives that bring critical perspectives on both our past and our present. Studying history helps us understand and grapple with complex questions and dilemmas by examining how the past has shaped (and continues to shape) global, national, and local relationships between societies and people.

How to Get In

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Requirements

University General Education Requirements

All undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin–Madison are required to fulfill a minimum set of common university general education requirements to ensure that every graduate acquires the essential core of an undergraduate education. This core establishes a foundation for living a productive life, being a citizen of the world, appreciating aesthetic values, and engaging in lifelong learning in a continually changing world. Various schools and colleges will have requirements in addition to the requirements listed below. Consult your advisor for assistance, as needed. For additional information, see the university Undergraduate General Education Requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatetextstudytext) section of the Guide.

General Education

- Breadth—Humanities/Literature/Arts: 6 credits
- Breadth—Natural Science: 4 to 6 credits, consisting of one 4- or 5-credit course with a laboratory component, or two courses providing a total of 6 credits
- Breadth—Social Studies: 3 credits
- Communication Part A & Part B *
- Ethnic Studies *
- Quantitative Reasoning Part A & Part B *

* The mortarboard symbol appears before the title of any course that fulfills one of the Communication Part A or Part B, Ethnic Studies, or Quantitative Reasoning Part A or Part B requirements.

College of Letters & Science Breadth and Degree Requirements: Bachelor of Science (B.S.)

Students pursuing a bachelor of science degree in the College of Letters & Science must complete all of the requirements below. The College of Letters & Science allows this major to be paired with either a bachelor of arts or a bachelor of science curriculum. View a comparison of the degree requirements here. (https://pubs.wisc.edu/home/archives/ug15/images/babs2009.pdf)

Bachelor of Science Degree Requirements

Mathematics

Two (2) 3+ credits of intermediate/advanced level MATH, COMP SCI, STAT

Limit one each: COMP SCI, STAT

Foreign Language

Complete the third unit of a foreign language

Note: A unit is one year of high school work or one semester/term of college work.

L&S Breadth

- Humanities, 12 credits: 6 of the 12 credits must be in literature
- Social Sciences, 12 credits
- Natural Sciences, 12 credits: must include 6 credits in biological science; and must include 6 credits in physical science

Liberal Arts and Science Coursework

108 credits

Depth of Intermediate/Advanced work

60 intermediate or advanced credits

Major

Declare and complete at least one (1) major

Total Credits

120 credits

UW-Madison Experience

30 credits in residence, overall

30 credits in residence after the 90th credit

Minimum

2,000 in all coursework at UW–Madison

GPAs

2,000 in intermediate/advanced coursework at UW–Madison

Non–L&S Students Pursuing an L&S Major

Non–L&S students who have permission from their school/college to pursue an additional major within L&S only need to fulfill the major requirements and do not need to complete the L&S breadth and
degree requirements above. Please note that the following special
degree programs are not considered majors so are not available to
non-L&S-degree-seeking candidates:

- Applied Mathematics, Engineering and Physics (Bachelor of
Science—Applied Mathematics, Engineering and
Physics)
- Journalism (Bachelor of Arts—Journalism; Bachelor of
Science—Journalism)
- Music (Bachelor of Music)
- Social Work (Bachelor of Social Work)

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR

The major requires a minimum of 30 credits.

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Select at least 24 credits in history of science</td>
<td>24</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Select 6 credits in science or mathematics above the elementary level (not to include mathematics courses numbered 223 and below)</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Credits</td>
<td>30</td>
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1 All majors are required to take HIST SCI 555, the department’s capstone seminar, in the junior or senior year.

One 3-credit course toward the 24-credit minimum may be chosen from approved courses in related disciplines. These courses include:

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHILOS 520</td>
<td>Philosophy of the Natural Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHILOS 521</td>
<td>Philosophy of the Social Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHILOS/</td>
<td>Philosophical Problems of the</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENVIR ST 523</td>
<td>Biological Sciences</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHILOS/</td>
<td>Ethical Issues in Health Care</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>MED HIST/ 558</td>
<td>The Ethics of Modern</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MED HIST/ 555</td>
<td>Biotechnology</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGRONOMY/ C&amp;E SOC/ PHILOS 565</td>
<td>Sociology of Medicine</td>
<td>3</td>
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Other substitutions may be allowed at the discretion of the undergraduate advisor. ILS 201 Western Culture: Science, Technology, Philosophy I or ILS 202 Western Culture: Science, Technology, Philosophy II may be used in place of HIST SCI 201 The Origins of Scientific Thought or HIST SCI 202 The Making of Modern Science to count toward the major requirements; ILS 271 Pre-Copernican Astronomy and Cosmology in Crosscultural Perspective may be used as a regular course in the major.

RESIDENCE AND QUALITY OF WORK

2.000 GPA in all courses that count toward the major

2.000 GPA on 15 upper-level credits that count toward the major, completed in residence.\(^1\)

15 credits in courses that count toward the major, taken at UW–Madison

1Courses that count toward the major that are intermediate or advanced level count as upper level.

HONORS IN THE MAJOR

Students may declare Honors in the History of Science, Medicine and Technology Major in consultation with the departmental undergraduate advisor.

HONORS IN THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE, MEDICINE AND TECHNOLOGY MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

To earn Honors in the Major in History of Science, Medicine and Technology, students must satisfy both the requirements for the major (above) and the following additional requirements:

- Earn a 3.300 overall university GPA
- Earn a 3.500 GPA for all upper-level\(^1\) HIST SCI courses
- Of the 24 departmental credits required, at least 15 must come from courses numbers 300–599 or HIST SCI 615 The History of Evolutionary Thought
- Complete one of the following: HIST SCI 180 Freshman Honors Seminar: History of Science, Technology and Medicine, HIST SCI 280 Honors Seminar: Studies in Science, Technology, Medicine Honors Seminar: Studies in Science, Technology, Medicine, HIST SCI/ MED HIST 284 Physician in History (Honors) (in conjunction with HIST SCI/MED HIST 212 Bodies, Diseases, and Healers: An Introduction to the History of Medicine), or one seminar (minimum of 3 credits) offered by the department at the upper-division level.
- HIST SCI 555 Undergraduate Seminar in History of Science should be taken before embarking on the Senior Honors Thesis; in exceptional cases, HIST SCI 555 Undergraduate Seminar in History of Science may be taken concurrently with HIST SCI 681 Senior Honors Thesis.
- Complete a two-semester Senior Honors Thesis in HIST SCI 681 Senior Honors Thesis and HIST SCI 682 Senior Honors Thesis, for a total of 6 credits.

1 Upper level includes all intermediate- and advanced-level courses.

UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

To receive a bachelor’s degree from UW–Madison, students must earn a minimum of 120 degree credits. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 degree credits. Students should consult with their college or department advisor for information on specific credit requirements.

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<td>Residency</td>
<td>Degree candidates are required to earn a minimum of 30 credits in residence at UW–Madison. “In residence” means on the UW–Madison campus with an undergraduate degree classification. “In residence” credit also includes UW–Madison courses offered in distance or online formats and credits earned in UW–Madison Study Abroad/Study Away programs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quality of Work</td>
<td>Undergraduate students must maintain the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, or academic program to remain in good academic standing. Students whose academic performance drops below these minimum thresholds will be placed on academic probation.</td>
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</table>
LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. (Define important historical questions) Pose a historical question and explain its academic and public implications.

2. (Define important historical questions) Using appropriate research procedures and aids, find the secondary resources in history and other disciplines available to answer a historical question.

3. (Define important historical questions) Evaluate the evidentiary and theoretical bases of pertinent historical conversations in order to highlight opportunities for further investigation.

4. (Collect and analyze evidence) Identify the range and limitations of sources available to engage the historical problem under investigation.

5. (Collect and analyze evidence) Examine the context in which sources were created, search for chronological and other relationships among them, and assess the sources in light of that knowledge.

6. (Collect and analyze evidence) Employ and, if necessary, modify appropriate theoretical frameworks to examine sources and develop arguments.

7. (Present original conclusions) Present original and coherent findings through clearly written, persuasive arguments and narratives.

8. (Present original conclusions) Orally convey persuasive arguments, whether in formal presentations or informal discussions.

9. (Present original conclusions) Use appropriate presentation formats and platforms to share information with academic and public audiences.

10. (Contribute to ongoing discussions) Extend insights from research to analysis of other historical problems.

11. (Contribute to ongoing discussions) Demonstrate the relevance of a historical perspective to contemporary issues.

12. (Contribute to ongoing discussions) Recognize, challenge, and avoid false analogies, overgeneralizations, anachronisms, and other logical fallacies.

PEOPLE

Professors Boswell, Cronon, Desan, Dunlavy, Enke, Enstad, Hansen, Hirsch, Hsia, S. Johnson, Kantrowitz, Keller Kleijwegt, Kosar, Lederer, McCoy, McDonald, Michels, Mitman, Neville, Nyhart, Plummer, Reese, Roberts, Sharpless, Shoemaker, Sommerville, Sweet, Thal, Wandel, Wink, Young

Associate Professors Chan, Cheng, Dennis, Gómez, Hall, Ipsen, Kim, Kodesh, Murthy, Ratner-Rosenhagen, Taylor, Ussishkin

Assistant Professors Brown, Callaci, Chamedes, Ciancia, Haynes, Hennessy, Hicks, Iber, Jackson, Kinzley, Lapina, Nelson, Whiting

Teaching Associates Carlsson, Cullinane, Keyser