Twin Cities Campus

History of Science, Technology, and Medicine Ph.D.

History of Science & Technology

Graduate School

Link to a list of faculty for this program.

Contact Information:
Program in the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine, University of Minnesota, 154 Shepherd Labs, 100 Union Street S.E., Minneapolis, MN 55455 (612-624-7069; fax: 612-301-1442)
Email: hstm@umn.edu
Website: http://www.hstm.umn.edu

- Program Type: Doctorate
- Requirements for this program are current for Spring 2018
- Length of program in credits: 54
- This program does not require summer semesters for timely completion.
- Degree: Doctor of Philosophy

Along with the program-specific requirements listed below, please read the General Information section of the catalog website for requirements that apply to all major fields.

The program offers opportunities for advanced research and study in the history of science and technology (with particular expertise in the history of the physical sciences, history of the biological sciences, history of technology, and history of American science and technology) and in the history of medicine.

Program Delivery

This program is available:

- via classroom (the majority of instruction is face-to-face)

Prerequisites for Admission

The preferred undergraduate GPA for admittance to the program is 3.00.

Other requirements to be completed before admission:
Students must have a bachelor's degree with a preferred grade average of B or better and must be capable of interdisciplinary study. Depending on background and career objectives, additional preparatory studies may be necessary in either the science-technology area or in the humanities and social sciences.

Although it is not strictly required for admission, it's strongly recommended that applicants submit a GRE score.

Special Application Requirements:
All application materials are submitted online to the University. Check the HSTM website (www.hstm.umn.edu) for more information. Applications are accepted for fall semester only. The application deadline is December 1.

International applicants must submit score(s) from one of the following tests:

- TOEFL
  - Internet Based - Total Score: 79
  - Internet Based - Writing Score: 21
  - Internet Based - Reading Score: 19
  - Paper Based - Total Score: 550
- IELTS
  - Total Score: 6.5
- MELAB
  - Final score: 80

Key to test abbreviations(TOEFL, IELTS, MELAB).

For an online application or for more information about graduate education admissions, see the General Information section of the catalog website.

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Information current as of March 28, 2024

Program Requirements

24 credits are required in the major.
6 credits are required outside the major.
24 thesis credits are required.

This program may be completed with a minor.

Use of 4xxx courses toward program requirements is permitted under certain conditions with adviser approval.

Language Requirement: Reading proficiency in two foreign languages.

A minimum GPA of 3.30 is required for students to remain in good standing.

Following the guidelines in the Graduate Student Handbook for the program (www.hstm.umn.edu), Ph.D. students select one of two tracks: the history of science and technology or the history of medicine; and within the chosen track, select courses subject to distribution requirements in terms of area and period. All of the courses selected for the requirements must be passed with a grade of B or better.

The PhD requires 54 credits consisting of the following: 6 credits in the required courses HSCI/HMED 8112 and 8113, 15 additional credits in HSCI or HMED courses, 3 credits in a directed study course, 6 credits in outside fields, and 24 thesis credits.

Program Sub-plans

Students are required to complete one of the following sub-plans.
Students may not complete the program with more than one sub-plan.

History of Medicine

Required Courses

Take the two-semester sequence of historiography and research preparation, plus an additional 15 credits in HMED chosen in consultation with adviser.

HMED 8112 - Historiography of Science, Technology, and Medicine (3.0 cr)
HMED 8113 - Research Methods in the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine (3.0 cr)

Directed Study

Take 3 credits in a directed study course.

HMED 8631 - Directed Study (1.0 - 6.0 cr)
HMED 8632 - Directed Study (1.0 - 6.0 cr)

Outside Field Coursework

In consultation with adviser and the DGS, take 6 credits in courses from either the track alternative to the one in which you are enrolled, in outside fields, or towards a doctoral minor.

Thesis Credits

Take 24 credits after passing preliminary oral exam.

HMED 8888 - Thesis Credit: Doctoral (1.0 - 24.0 cr)

History of Science and Technology

Required Courses

Take the two-semester sequence of historiography and research preparation, plus an additional 15 credits in HSCI chosen in consultation with adviser.

HSCI 8112 - Historiography of Science, Technology, and Medicine (3.0 cr)
HSCI 8113 - Research Methods in the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine (3.0 cr)

Directed Study

Take 3 credits in a directed study course.

HSCI 8993 - Directed Studies (1.0 - 5.0 cr)
HSCI 8994 - Directed Research (1.0 - 5.0 cr)

Outside Field Coursework

In consultation with adviser and the DGS, take 6 credits in courses from either the track alternative to the one in which you are enrolled, in outside fields, or towards a doctoral minor.

Thesis Credits

Take 24 credits after passing preliminary oral exam.

HSCI 8888 - Thesis Credit: Doctoral (1.0 - 24.0 cr)

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