Program of Study

The BA program in the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Science and Medicine (HIPS) is designed for College students interested in studying science in terms of its historical development, conceptual structure, and social role. Students in the program must do sufficient work in one or more sciences to acquire a sound foundation for studying the nature of science. After securing this basis, they are expected to gain an understanding of how science arose, as well as how the content of scientific thought has changed and is changing, because of both its own internal dynamic and its interaction with the larger society in which it is embedded.

The HIPS program is designed to make possible the study of a wide range of social, historical, and conceptual issues relating to science. Students completing the program follow a number of different careers. Some pursue graduate study in the history and philosophy of science or in some field of science. Others find the program valuable preparation for the study of medicine, law, public policy, or science journalism. More generally, the goal of the program is to provide students with a sound basis on which to interpret and evaluate science and science policy. Some students choose to construct a degree program combining the requirements for the HIPS major with those for a major in the physical or biological sciences. Others, having met the HIPS program requirements, use electives to broaden their liberal arts education.

Students in other fields of study may also complete a minor in HIPS. Information follows the description of the major.

HIPS Sponsor

The Morris Fishbein Center for the History of Science and Medicine sponsors the HIPS program. Further information can be obtained in the center’s office (SS 207) and at fishbein.uchicago.edu.

Program Requirements

Elements of the Curriculum. The curriculum of the program contains five principal elements:

1. The Foundation. All students must:
   a. complete an approved sequence that fulfills the biological sciences general education requirement;
   b. complete the general education requirement in the physical sciences with a physics sequence (PHYS 12100-12200 General Physics I-II or equivalent) or a chemistry sequence (CHEM 11100-11200 Comprehensive General Chemistry I-II, CHEM 10100 Introductory General Chemistry I and CHEM 10200 Introductory General Chemistry II, or equivalent), or have earned a score of 5 on the AP Chemistry or Physics test or a score of 4 or 5 on the AP Physics C Mechanics and E&M test;
   c. complete a calculus sequence (MATH 13100-13200 Elementary Functions and Calculus I-II or higher), or have earned a score of 5 on the AP Calculus BC test;
   d. complete a three-quarter sequence surveying the growth of science in Western civilization, with three courses from either the HIPS 17300-17400 (or 17403)-17504 (or 17502) sequence or the HIPS 17300-17402-17503 sequence. HIPS 17400 and HIPS 17403 may not be taken in the same sequence.

2. Advanced Science. In addition to the science courses typically taken as part of the general education requirements, students are expected to take three courses in science, social sciences, or mathematics beyond the introductory level. They select these advanced courses according to their special aims, their area of concentration, and the subject of their bachelor’s thesis.

3. Areas of Concentration. All students in the program determine an area of concentration in the anthropology, ethics, history, philosophy, or sociology of science and medicine. In consultation with the program director and their program adviser, students select five courses to constitute this concentration area. For example, some students may be particularly interested in the intellectual and social interactions between changing scientific knowledge and institutions, on the one hand, and evolving social institutions, on the other; a second group may be concerned with either epistemological issues related to the growth of science or moral and political problems attending the employment of technology; and a third group may wish to emphasize the study of science as a social or cultural activity.

4. Tutorials. Students are required to take two tutorial courses; this is typically done early in their program. With a specific focus that changes each year, these tutorials are small classes (from three to ten students) that emphasize discussion and writing. An updated list of courses is available in the HIPS office (SS 207) or at registrar.uchicago.edu/classes.

5. Bachelor’s Thesis and Junior Seminar. Third-year students enroll in a designated one-quarter seminar (HIPS 29800 Junior Seminar: My Favorite Readings in the History and Philosophy of Science) that deals with general aspects of history, philosophy, and social studies of science and medicine. In Spring Quarter of their third year, students must discuss their proposal for their bachelor’s thesis with the program director. In consultation with the program director, students then sign up for a reading and research course (HIPS 29700 Readings and Research in History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Science and Medicine) with an appropriate faculty member. In their fourth year, this research course should lead to a
bachelor's thesis (HIPS 29900 Bachelor's Thesis) that integrates each student's academic studies, bringing them to bear on a significant question related to some historical, conceptual, ethical, or social aspect of science. Fourth-year students also enroll in a two-quarter HIPS 29810 Bachelor's Thesis Workshop, which is comprised of meetings that focus on organizing, researching, writing, and revising the thesis.

Summary of Requirements

GENERAL EDUCATION

Three courses from one of the following sequences: 300

- HIPS 17300 Science, Culture, and Society in Western Civilization I
- HIPS 17400 Science, Culture, and Society in Western Civilization II
- or HIPS 17403 Science, Culture, and Society in Western Civilization II
- HIPS 17504 Science, Culture, and Society in Western Civilization III
- or HIPS 17502 Science, Culture, and Society in Western Civilization IV

or

- HIPS 17300 Science, Culture, and Society in Western Civilization I
- HIPS 17402 Science, Culture, and Society in Western Civilization II
- HIPS 17503 Science, Culture, and Society in Western Civilization III

An approved sequence that fulfills the biological sciences general education requirement 200

One of the following sequences:

- CHEM 10100 Introductory General Chemistry I and Introductory General Chemistry II (or equivalent) *
- CHEM 11100-11200 Comprehensive General Chemistry I-II (or equivalent) *
- PHYS 12100-12200 General Physics I-II (or higher) *
- MATH 13100-13200 Elementary Functions and Calculus I-II (or higher) *

Total Units 900

MAJOR

Three courses in science, social sciences, or mathematics beyond the introductory level 300

Five courses in an area of concentration 500

Two tutorials 200

HIPS 29700 Readings and Research in History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Science and Medicine 100

HIPS 29800 Junior Seminar: My Favorite Readings in the History and Philosophy of Science 100

HIPS 29900 Bachelor's Thesis 100

HIPS 29810 Bachelor's Thesis Workshop 100

Total Units 1400

* Credit may be granted by examination.

Examples of Concentrations

The following are meant to illustrate areas of concentration. They are not prescriptive, only suggestive. For the particular courses that might constitute their area of concentration, students should consult with the director of the program, examine this course catalog, and visit registrar.uchicago.edu/classes.

History and Philosophy of Biological Science

- HIPS 23600 History and Theory of Human Evolution 100
- BIOS 29321 The Problem of Evil: Disease? 100
- HIPS 23900 Biological and Cultural Evolution 100
- HIPS 25801 Evolutionary Theory and Its Role in the Human Sciences 100
- HIPS 28202 Topics in Philosophy of Science: Mechanism and Causation 100

Total Units 500

Philosophy of Science

- HIPS 20300 Scientific/Technological Change 100
- HIPS 22000 Introduction to the Philosophy of Science 100
- HIPS 22708 Planetary Britain, 1600–1900 100
- HIPS 24900 Natural Philosophy 1200–1800 100
History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Science and Medicine (HIPS)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIPS 25400</td>
<td>Philosophy of Mind and Science Fiction</td>
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History of Medicine and Medical Ethics

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<tr>
<td>HIPS 21600</td>
<td>Advanced Medical Ethics: Health Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIPS 21911</td>
<td>Medical Ethics: Who Decides and on What Basis?</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIPS 25900</td>
<td>Darwinian Medicine</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIPS 26901</td>
<td>History and Philosophy of Psychology</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIPS 27300</td>
<td>Medicine and Culture</td>
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Admission

To be eligible for admission, students should have completed at least two of the four foundation course sequences listed in the preceding section and should have maintained a 3.2 GPA or higher in previous course work. Students should apply for admission no later than Autumn Quarter of their third year to the director of the program. The director advises students about the requirements, arranges a preliminary plan of study, and discusses scheduling conflicts and special cases. Thereafter, a student chooses, in consultation with the director, a BA adviser from the staff.

Honors

Students who meet the following criteria are considered for graduation with honors: (1) overall GPA of 3.3 or higher, (2) completion of a bachelor's thesis of A quality, and (3) a majority vote by the faculty in favor of honors.

Grading

Students majoring in HIPS must receive quality grades in all courses meeting the requirements of the degree program, except HIPS 29810 Bachelor's Thesis Workshop must be taken for P/F grading. Nonmajors may take courses for P/F grading with consent of instructor.

Advisers

Drawn from many parts of the University, those listed in the Faculty Section of the HIPS program have direct responsibility for admitting students, formulating curriculum, and advising students.

Minor Program in History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Science and Medicine

Students in other fields of study may complete a minor in HIPS, in particular, the minor program in HIPS offers students who are majoring in science the opportunity to gain an understanding of the conceptual, historical, and social contexts in which their disciplines are situated.

The minor requires a total of six courses. Courses in the minor (1) may not be double counted with the student's major(s) or with other minors and (2) may not be counted toward general education requirements. Courses in the minor must be taken for quality grades, and more than half of the requirements for the minor must be met by registering for courses bearing University of Chicago course numbers.

Students should take at least two courses from either the sequence HIPS 17300-HIPS 17400-HIPS 17504-HIPS 17502 Science, Culture, and Society in Western Civilization I-II-III-IV (HIPS 17403 may be taken in place of HIPS 17400, but may not be taken in the same sequence) or from the sequence HIPS 17300-HIPS 17402-HIPS 17503 Science, Culture, and Society in Western Civilization II-II-III-IV to meet the general education requirement in civilization studies. Additional courses in these sequences that are not used to meet the general education requirement can count toward courses required for the minor.

Students must complete one tutorial course.

The remaining five courses for the minor program should constitute an area of concentration in the anthropology, ethics, history, philosophy, or sociology of science and medicine. Students select the courses that constitute this concentration in consultation with the program director and their program adviser.

Students who elect the minor program in HIPS should meet with the program director before the end of Spring Quarter of their third year to declare their intention to complete the program. The director's approval for the minor program should be submitted to the student's College adviser by the deadline above on a form obtained from the adviser.

The following groups of courses would satisfy the requirements for a minor in HIPS. They are only meant to illustrate possible plans of study; they are not prescriptive.

Group 1

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<tr>
<td>HIPS 29405 Tutorial: Evolution and Pragmatism</td>
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<td>Concentration in History and Philosophy of Biology:</td>
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<td>HIPS 22700 Philosophical Problems in the Biological Sciences</td>
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<td>Biological and Cultural Evolution</td>
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<td>HIPS 25801</td>
<td>Evolutionary Theory and Its Role in the Human Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIPS 28202</td>
<td>Topics in Philosophy of Science: Mechanism and Causation</td>
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**Group 2**

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<td>HIPS 29606</td>
<td>Tutorial: Medicine, Disease, and Death in American History</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIPS 17501</td>
<td>Science, Culture, and Society in Western Civilization III (if not taken to meet general education requirements)</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIPS 21400</td>
<td>Intro to Medical Ethics</td>
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<td>HIPS 21600</td>
<td>Advanced Medical Ethics: Health Care</td>
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<td>HIPS 24800</td>
<td>Gender and History and Science Technology and Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIPS 27300</td>
<td>Medicine and Culture</td>
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Font Notice

This document should contain certain fonts with restrictive licenses. For this draft, substitutions were made using less legally restrictive fonts. Specifically:

- Times was used instead of Trajan.
- Times was used instead of Palatino.

The editor may contact Leepfrog for a draft with the correct fonts in place.