

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND SOCIETY

Undergraduate Study

MIT students are increasingly seeking to understand the social and historical contexts in which they will work and the social consequences of what they will do in their professional careers. STS subjects help them think realistically and creatively about the intellectual, moral, political, and social issues raised by the rapid growth of science and technology in the 20th century and beyond.

STS contributes to undergraduate education at MIT in several ways. It offers general subjects to introduce students to broad social and intellectual perspectives on science and engineering fields. It also offers more specialized subjects in the history of science and technology and in social and cultural studies of science and technology. Within each of these categories, students can choose both introductory and more advanced subjects.

STS as a Second Major

Students who wish to integrate their professional study of engineering or science with a rigorous treatment of its relation to social and historical forces may pursue STS as a second major (<https://catalog.mit.edu/degree-charts/science-technology-society-sts>) in cooperation with the Schools of Engineering and Science. The object of this program is to give those students the full technical and scientific education provided by a science or engineering major, balanced with intensive study of the historical and social contexts of science and technology. Double major applications from students in other schools (e.g., Architecture and Planning; Management; Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences) will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Students in the double major program must complete all the requirements of both majors. The STS requirements include 13 subjects as follows:

- STS.004 Intersections: Science, Technology, and the World
- At least one STS Tier I subject (<http://sts-program.mit.edu/academics/undergraduate/tier-i-subjects>), in addition to STS.004
- At least one STS Tier II subject (<http://sts-program.mit.edu/academics/undergraduate/tier-ii-subjects>)
- Four other STS subjects
- Four subjects related to the historical and social study of science and technology
- STS.THT Undergraduate Thesis Tutorial
- STS.THU Undergraduate Thesis

If a student's other major also requires a thesis, students may coordinate their thesis effort, pending approval of undergraduate officers in both majors. Further details on the requirements of the

STS program may be obtained from the STS undergraduate academic officer and the STS academic administrator.

Joint Degree Programs

Students who wish to integrate studies in STS and science or engineering in the context of a single degree should consider this program. It leads to one degree, either a Bachelor of Science in Humanities and Science or a Bachelor of Science in Humanities and Engineering. The STS requirement for either degree is 9 subjects as follows:

- STS.004 Intersections: Science, Technology, and the World
- At least one STS Tier I subject (<http://sts-program.mit.edu/academics/undergraduate/tier-i-subjects>), in addition to STS.004
- At least one STS Tier II subject (<http://sts-program.mit.edu/academics/undergraduate/tier-ii-subjects>)
- Four other STS subjects
- STS.THT Undergraduate Thesis Tutorial
- STS.THU Undergraduate Thesis

Consult the 21E (<https://catalog.mit.edu/degree-charts/humanities-engineering-course-21e>) and 21S (<https://catalog.mit.edu/degree-charts/humanities-science-course-21s>) degree charts for details on the requirements for these joint degrees. Further details may be obtained from the SHASS Dean's Office (hass-www@mit.edu), Room 4-240, and the STS academic administrator.

Minor in Science, Technology, and Society

The goal of the minor program is to give students a broad social perspective on the fields of engineering and science: how they have evolved and how they fit into the wider context of society, culture, politics, and values.

The Minor in Science, Technology, and Society consists of six STS subjects, including STS.004, at least one additional subject from the Tier I list, and at least one subject from the Tier II list.

Tier I		
STS.004	Intersections: Science, Technology, and the World ¹	12
<i>Select one of the following:</i>		12
STS.001	Technology in American History	
STS.002	Finance and Society	
STS.003	Ancient Greeks to Modern Geeks: A History of Science	
STS.005[J]	Data and Society	
STS.006[J]	Bioethics	
STS.008	Technology and Experience	
STS.009	Evolution and Society	
STS.011	Engineering Life: Biotechnology and Society	

STS.012[J]	Science in Action: Technologies and Controversies in Everyday Life	
STS.014	Embodied Education: Past, Present, Future	
Tier II ²		
Select one subject from the list of Tier II subjects		9-12
Electives		
Select three additional subjects from among Tiers I and II		27-36
Total Units		60-72

¹ Substitution with a similar subject may be permitted by petition to the STS Undergraduate Officer.

² See list of Tier II subjects (<http://sts-program.mit.edu/academics/undergraduate/tier-ii-subjects>).