

Carnegie Mellon

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Carnegie Mellon's College of Humanities and Social Sciences (H&SS) embraces a philosophy that has deep roots in Carnegie Mellon history. Robert Doherty, university president from 1936-1950, introduced a radically new concept in engineering education that stressed broad development of the character and ability needed to think independently as citizens and individuals, as well as professionals. This became known as the "Carnegie Plan" of liberal-professional education that revolutionized undergraduate professional education in the United States.

This philosophy has also guided the development of undergraduate education in H&SS. The college's educational program is "liberal" in that it stresses breadth and invites wide-ranging inquiry through its general education curriculum and programs in the humanities, behavioral sciences and social sciences. The "professional" dimension derives from general emphases on analytical sophistication and application and a subset of in-depth major programs that prepare students for a broad range of career fields, as well as for graduate or professional school training. The rationale for this liberal/professional approach stems from the belief that the intellectual foundations of a challenging liberal education and meaningful professional education are essentially the same. Knowledgeable and effective citizens are as much in need of broad intellectual perspectives, analytical skills and problem-solving strategies as are most professionals. This balance insures versatility in one's profession and the ability to keep pace as individuals and citizens with changes in our social, technical and cultural environments.

H&SS is committed to undergraduate and graduate education, research and creative pursuits. All faculty engage in teaching, research and/or creative work from which undergraduate students benefit in and out of the classroom. Approximately one-fifth of all undergraduates are in H&SS; and 80 percent of H&SS students are undergraduates. The college is staffed by 240 faculty members.

Starting with the college's General Education Program, students are taught by the college's most accomplished and senior faculty. Freshmen select from an array of faculty-taught seminars designed to explore topical areas of study in small groups of approximately 15 students. In their second through fourth semesters students may qualify for a "Faculty Research Training" course that immerses them in a faculty research project. These are complemented in the upper class years by small elective courses, seminars, project courses and a range of undergraduate research options.

Departments & Majors

Majors, Additional Majors and Minors

H&SS offers a wide range of innovative and rigorous majors that provide students with flexibility and choice in designing a program of study. Many H&SS students pursue additional majors. An additional major is the completion of that major's requirements in addition to those required for the primary major. Most H&SS majors are available as additional majors; a few are available only as additional majors. All Carnegie Mellon students are eligible to complete an H&SS additional major. Minors differ from majors in the breadth and depth reflected in the number of courses required. There are two types of minors: departmental minors, which are in an H&SS academic department, and interdepartmental or intercollege minors, which are jointly offered by more than one department or college. H&SS minors are available to all Carnegie Mellon students.

Academic Advising

The H&SS Academic Advisory Center is the "home base" for the college's students prior to declaration of a major. Its advisors provide information, advice and counsel about scheduling, the General

H&SS Major (Degree)

Chinese Studies (B.A.)
 Cognitive Science (B.S.)
 Creative Writing (B.A.)
 Decision Science (B.S.)
 Economics (B.A. or B.S.)
 Economics and Mathematical Sciences (B.S.)
 Economics and Statistics (B.S.)
 English (B.A.)
 Environmental Policy (additional major only)
 Ethics, History, and Public Policy (B.A.)
 European Studies (B.A.)
 French and Francophone Studies (B.A.)
 German (B.A.)
 Global Studies (B.A.)
 History (B.A.)
 Information Systems (B.S.) (by admission)
 International Relations and Politics (B.S.)
 Japanese (B.A.)
 Linguistics (B.A.)
 Logic and Computation (B.S.)
 Philosophy (B.A.)
 Policy and Management (B.S.)
 Professional Writing (B.A.)
 Psychology (B.A. or B.S.)
 Psychology and Biological Sciences (B.S.)
 Russian Studies (B.A.)
 Spanish/Hispanic Studies (B.A.)
 Statistics (B.S.)
 Student-Defined Major (B.A. or B.S.)
 Technical Writing and Communication (B.S.)

H&SS Department

Modern Languages
 Psychology
 English
 Social & Decision Sciences
 Economics
 Economics
 Interdepartmental
 English
 Interdepartmental
 Interdepartmental
 Interdepartmental
 Modern Languages
 Modern Languages
 History
 History
 Interdepartmental
 Social & Decision Sciences
 Modern Languages
 Interdepartmental
 Philosophy
 Philosophy
 Social & Decision Sciences
 English
 Psychology
 Psychology
 Modern Languages
 Modern Languages
 Statistics
 Interdepartmental
 English

H&SS Minors

African and African-American Studies
 Arts in Society
 Chinese Studies
 Decision Science
 Economics
 English
 Environmental Studies
 Ethics
 European Studies
 Film and Media Studies
 French and Francophone Studies
 Gender Studies
 German
 Global Politics
 Global Systems and Management
 Health Care Policy and Management
 History
 Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Economic Development
 Japanese
 Linguistics
 Logic and Computation
 Multimedia Production
 Philosophy
 Policy and Management
 Psychology
 Religious Studies
 Russian Studies
 Science, Technology and Society
 Sociology
 Spanish/Hispanic Studies
 Statistics

H&SS Department

History
 Intercollege
 Modern Languages
 Social & Decision Sciences
 Economics
 English
 Interdepartmental
 Philosophy
 Interdepartmental
 Interdepartmental
 Modern Languages
 Interdepartmental
 Modern Languages
 Social & Decision Sciences
 Interdepartmental
 Intercollege
 History
 Social & Decision Sciences
 Modern Languages
 Interdepartmental
 Philosophy
 Interdepartmental
 Philosophy
 Social & Decision Sciences
 Psychology
 Interdepartmental
 Interdepartmental
 Interdepartmental
 Interdepartmental
 Modern Languages
 Statistics

Liberal Arts and Professional Studies

Education Program requirements in the college and the various majors and minors available. The advisors in the center work to strengthen the importance, dignity, potential and unique nature of each individual within the academic setting. Advising, as part of the education process, involves helping students develop a realistic self-perception and successfully transition to postsecondary study by offering encouragement, respect and assistance in establishing student's goals and objectives. Upon admission, each H&SS student has the opportunity to develop a relationship with an academic advisor in the center.

Department of Economics

Economics

Economists analyze and develop useful solutions to a wide range of problems. They help political bodies, businesses and organizations make better decisions by developing market strategies, implementing regulatory structures and adopting appropriate government policies. Students may concentrate in an area. Current offerings include: Economics of Financial Markets, Innovative Markets and Technology, Economics and Strategy, Economics of Social Issues and Economics in the Global Marketplace. Quantitative Economics Analysis is also available. The undergraduate economics program is supported by the Tepper School of Business and H&SS. Economics majors are considered members of both colleges' support services. Through this unique arrangement students benefit from the liberal arts and professional approaches to education.

Department of English

The Department of English involves students in the important study of reading and writing as they are embedded in historical, cultural, literary, professional and technological practices. Working with faculty who are writers, scholars and researchers in these areas, students become effective writers and analysts of various kinds of texts in a range of media. They all share a deep commitment to working in small, intense workshops and seminars to help students learn to become experts in analyzing existing texts, and in producing original and distinctive work of their own.

Creative Writing

Carnegie Mellon is unique in that undergraduates can pursue a major in creative writing that develops their talents in writing fiction, poetry and other imaginative forms. While studying with faculty members who are practicing poets and prose writers, majors read widely in literature, explore the resources of their imaginations, sharpen their critical and verbal skills and develop a professional attitude toward their writing. It is based on a conservatory model of faculty and students who have an intense commitment to their work. Students can work with nationally known poets and fiction writers through the Visiting Writers series.

English

The English major builds on creating interpretations of literature of various historical periods by teaching texts as part of a complex web of historical conditions and relationships. It also builds on teaching both major literary texts and public and nonfiction documents, and by teaching film, television and other storytelling media alongside more conventional texts. Students learn the research skills and writing strategies to enable them to analyze the language and texts of other writers and to report their research in effective texts of their own. Such training can prepare students for graduate work in literature, cultural studies or rhetoric, and also for careers in law, business or government, which require similar skills in interpretation, research and writing.

Professional Writing

Professional Writing combines liberal and professional education with a strong foundation in rhetorical studies. The Professional Writing major has a strong career orientation and is specifically designed to prepare students for successful careers as writers and communications specialists in a range of fields: publishing, government, journalism, law, community advocacy, the non-profit sector, education, corporate communications and the arts. The major develops articulate and reflective writing professionals with both the professional skills needed to negotiate current work contexts (including writing for the web and for multimedia) and the analytic and problem-solving skills needed to understand and keep pace with cultural and technological change.

Technical Writing and Communication

The Technical Writing and Communication major is one of the oldest

undergraduate technical communication degrees in the country that leads to a B.S. rather than a B.A. degree. The program prepares students for successful careers involving scientific, technical and computer-related communication. Technical writers have worked primarily with print documents and within a relatively narrow range of fields that included the software industry and various organizations concerned primarily with scientific or technological subjects. Today's technical communicators are professional specialists with strong backgrounds in technology, communication and design skills needed to enter a broad range of information-based fields. The expanding range of options includes positions that organize, communicate, manage and facilitate the use of both technical and non-technical information.

Department of History

Undergraduate programs in history focus on new ways to understand the past and new ways to use what we know. The programs explore the ways historical understanding facilitates the assessment of social, cultural and policy change; they emphasize analytic and empirical methods in developing conceptual understanding. The department's mission also includes courses introducing students to various societal settings and diverse types of controversial public issues, thus contributing actively to students' liberal and professional development.

Global Studies

Global studies focuses on anthropological and historical approaches to understanding contemporary global processes and problems. Students will become acquainted with theoretical and interpretive approaches to the study of the contemporary world and will better understand the challenges, dilemmas and opportunities that confront humankind in the twenty-first century. Focused coursework, research, language study and opportunities to study abroad prepare students for graduate study or careers in law, teaching, government, business or international development. Offered through the Global Studies program.

History

The study of history involves not only the mastery of a body of subject matter, but also the development of a range of skills which are broadly applicable in modern society. Exploration of patterns in the past aids in understanding the workings of human society, while historical research and study promotes abilities in handling and interpreting data that have a variety of uses. The Carnegie Mellon History program is devoted to innovative approaches to history and the development of key skills.

Interdepartmental

Economics and Statistics

The Economics and Statistics major is an interdisciplinary course of study designed for students with a strong interest in the empirical analysis of economic data. Jointly administered by the Departments of Statistics and Economics, it provides students with a solid foundation in the theories and methods of both fields. Students are trained to advance the understanding of economic issues through the analysis, synthesis and reporting of data using the advanced empirical research methods of statistics and econometrics. They are well positioned for competitive graduate programs in statistics, economics and management, as well as for employment in positions requiring strong analytic and conceptual skills in economics, finance, education and public policy.

Environmental Policy (additional major only)

The Environmental Policy additional major focuses on the interaction of humans with the environment from a multitude of perspectives. It is designed to provide students with the interdisciplinary background and skills necessary to understand environmental issues and emphasizes three general areas: humanities and the arts, social sciences, and natural science and technology. Humanities and arts emphasis concerns the ethical, legal and historical basis of environmental concerns, as well as their aesthetic manifestations. Social sciences concentrate on the economic and political nature of environmental problems and possible policy options and responses. Natural science and technology focuses on the exploration of ecology, as well as the role of technology as both problem creator and problem solver.

Ethics, History and Public Policy

Preparing students for leadership positions is a vital goal of colleges and

universities in every democratic and technologically advanced society.

The intellectual challenges facing public and private sector leaders expand dramatically each year, and there will be a compelling need in 21st century America for broadly educated, ethically-sensitive and technically-skilled public servants. Graduates will have to demonstrate sophisticated interdisciplinary knowledge, historical understanding of how modern-day problems have evolved, and an operational grasp of clear, rational criteria for ethical decision making. The major in ethics, history, and public policy seeks to provide students with a solid humanistic and social-scientific foundation for developing such high-level leadership capabilities. It also provides ample room for specialization, technical skill development and internship experience in a wide range of policy areas. The major is jointly offered by the Departments of History and Philosophy.

European Studies

Europe constitutes a vital part of our cultural heritage and has been a source of both great creativity and massive devastation in the modern era. The European Studies major enhances students' understanding of the historical evolution and contemporary dimensions of European society, politics and culture. It furnishes students with substantive knowledge of Western European society through a solid foundation in one of the continental Western European languages and comparative inquiry across boundaries of time, nation and scholarly discipline. The major is jointly offered by the Departments of Modern Languages and History.

Information Systems

Information Systems is a unique and innovative undergraduate interdisciplinary major, drawing on college and university strengths. It focuses on design and implementation of effective information and decision support solutions for organizational and management needs. Students study the organizational, societal, technological and economic aspects of computer-based information systems, and learn how these elements work together to affect real outcomes. The program is grounded in organization theory, decision making, teamwork and leadership. The major provides H&SS students with a broad liberal education along with training in the essential aspects of the design and implementation of information systems. Because of this broad training, students are positioned to pursue graduate degrees in disciplinary fields of the social and behavioral sciences or humanities, as well as in information systems, business administration, technology management and policy and human-computer interaction. Graduates often take jobs in consulting companies, major software firms, large corporations and start-up companies.

Linguistics

This major springs from a particular view of the study of language. This includes knowledge of the variety of linguistic forms and structures which occur in the world's languages, and of certain fundamental theoretical concepts—phoneme, morpheme, constituency—which are crucial to linguistic analysis in any theoretical framework. This is combined with the study of language in the broader contexts of cognition, communication and society. The study of language is thus inherently and essentially an interdisciplinary study, intersecting with cognitive psychology, philosophy and social and cultural studies. The linguistics major is offered jointly by the Departments of Philosophy, English, Modern Languages and Psychology, and also with participation by the Language Technologies Institute in the School of Computer Science.

Russian Studies

The relationship between Russia and the West has been central to the history of the twentieth century, influencing politics throughout the globe. The disintegration of the USSR, the emergence of more democratic forms of government and the development of new "free market" economies have led not only to greater openness and stronger ties with the West, but also to a host of new questions in the areas of business, science, technology, national defense and international security. It allows for exploration of new issues in fascinating ways that were formerly forbidden. Young, talented people with a broadly-based knowledge of Russian history, language and culture are needed to fill jobs in international law, education, diplomacy, business, journalism and computing, as well as in economic, scientific and technical consulting. The Russian Studies major gives students a solid background in Russian history, language, culture and politics. It is jointly offered by the Departments of History and Modern Languages.

Intercollege

Bachelor of Humanities and Arts Program

Carnegie Mellon University offers an interdisciplinary and intercollege degree, the Bachelor of Humanities and Arts, that combines the strengths of the College of Fine Arts and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. This degree enables a student to receive broader exposure to the humanities and liberal arts while obtaining a deeper and more substantial training in the fine arts than is generally possible through a degree in either college. The program provides enough flexibility to allow students to explore other areas of interest. The most important aspect of this program is that students blend their interests to explore the connections between their chosen disciplines.

Human Computer Interaction (additional major only)

Human-Computer Interaction is still a fast growing field devoted to the design, implementation and evaluation of interactive computer-based technology. Products include intelligent computer tutors, wearable computers and internet connected personal digital assistants. Constructing a human computer interaction product is a cyclic, iterative process of at least three stages: design, implementation and evaluation. Collaborators and sponsors of the Human Computer Interaction Institute are from a broad spectrum of the Carnegie Mellon campus including the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, as well as other universities in Pittsburgh and around the world, small startup companies and multi-national corporations.

Department of Modern Languages

The study of a foreign language is not only desirable but essential for successful integration into our current multinational, pluralistic world. It is incumbent upon us to educate citizens who will be sensitive to other cultures and capable of communicating in other languages. Proficiency in a second language and intercultural competence promotes personal enrichment and is essential in our increasingly interdependent global context. Courses in literature, culture and civilization offer students a solid introduction and close studies of specific movements, genres, national or regional histories, literatures and cultures while continuing to promote skill development in reading, writing and aural/oral communication. Majors in Modern Language Studies have applied their skills at home and abroad in a wide variety of professional fields such as international business, finance, government, public policy, consulting, engineering, non-profit foundation work, law, health professions, education, technology, publishing, the arts, the service industry and social services.

The Department of Modern Languages offers majors in the following areas:

- **Chinese Studies**
- **French and Francophone Studies**
- **German**
- **Japanese**
- **Spanish/Hispanic Studies**

Department of Philosophy

The department has achieved an international reputation through the acclaimed research of its members and its innovative educational programs, not only in traditional topics such as ethics, philosophy of mind, logic and theory of knowledge, but also in contemporary and applied areas as automated theorem proving, business ethics, causal discovery, conflict resolution, forward learning theory, game and decision theory, machine learning and the foundations of statistics. Interdisciplinary work, a traditional strength of the Carnegie Mellon community, is vital to the department and is reflected in the courses offered.

Logic and Computation

The Logic and Computation major takes advantage of introductory preparation in mathematics, philosophy, psychology and statistics. It allows students to focus on areas including (but not limited to): computer science, language and information technology, artificial intelligence and cognitive science, logic and the foundations of mathematics and methodology and philosophy of science. Students take a common core of courses in logic, methodology and computer science, together with an associated seminar in their senior year. The analytic and communication skills developed in the major support a wide range of career choices, including those among the fields of technology, business and law. Fields of graduate study for which students are well prepared include computer science, cognitive science, philosophy, logic and linguistics.

Philosophy

The Philosophy major is flexible and facilitates additional majors in other fields (including majors with a strong professional focus). It provides students with a broad humanities education and sharpens their analytical skills. We encourage students to choose a thematic concentration through their electives that could emphasize pre-law, metaphysics and epistemology, ethics and social philosophy and philosophy of mind.

Department of Psychology

Can newborn infants perceive the world as we do, or is it just “a blooming buzzing confusion?” Do personality, beliefs and social factors influence health? How do scientists make discoveries and what abilities make these insights possible? Can computers think the way people do? How does brain activity reveal differences in thinking? These are questions our faculty are trying to answer. Students have the opportunity to study with faculty who are on the leading edge of this kind of research. Faculty are pioneers in areas of cognitive psychology, developmental psychology, cognitive science, social psychology, cognitive neuroscience and health psychology.

Cognitive Science

The field of cognitive science has grown out of increasingly active interaction among psychology, linguistics, artificial intelligence, philosophy and neuroscience. All of these fields share the goal of understanding intelligence. By combining these diverse perspectives, students in the cognitive science major are able to understand cognition at a deep level. Because this major is administered by the Psychology Department, it focuses on human cognition and the experimental study of the human mind as illuminated by the techniques of the above disciplines.

Psychology

Psychology is a science which embraces both biological and social sciences. It is concerned with establishing principles and laws regarding the ways in which people think and behave through the scientific study of human behavior. Students are expected to learn about findings already established by psychologists and to become proficient in the investigation and analysis of behavior. For example, students interested in child development may be involved in the child development laboratory and observational facilities at the Carnegie Mellon Children’s School. Psychology majors have access to extensive computer facilities for data analysis and simulation work.

Psychology and Biological Sciences

This unified major is intended to reflect the interdisciplinary nature of current research in the fields of psychology and biology, as well as the national trend in some professions to seek individuals broadly trained in both the social and natural sciences.

Department of Social and Decision Sciences

The department is multidisciplinary in offering programs that seamlessly combine frontier knowledge in the social sciences with the practical skills needed to excel in key decision making roles in the public and private sectors and in advanced studies. Students learn how to combine intellectual ideals with the realities of human and organizational behavior and to apply these lessons across areas ranging from government service to leadership positions in the information economy.

Decision Science

Carnegie Mellon is one of the leading centers for the study of decision science. This interdisciplinary field seeks to understand and improve the judgment and decision making of individuals, groups and organizations. Our faculty apply decision research in such areas as medical decision making, marketing, legal decision making, societal risk management and business. The Decision Science major is grounded in theories and methods drawn from psychology, economics, philosophy, management science and statistics. Courses cover three aspects of decision science: normative approaches (creating formal models of rational choice), descriptive research (studying how cognitive, emotional, social, and institutional factors affect judgment and choice) and prescriptive interventions (seeking to improve judgment and decision making).

International Relations and Politics

International Relations and Politics is about the intersection of politics, markets, culture, and technology; the declining significance of the distinction between

domestic politics and international relations; the challenges from migration, economic and political transitions, disease, environmental changes and war; and the often transcendent power of identity, ideology, nationalism, religion, culture and technology on state and non-state actors. No single discipline can fully grapple with what it means to live in a global society, but analytical social science provides important insights. Students majoring in International Relations and Politics will become conversant in the theoretical underpinnings of the study of international relations. They will also be trained to apply analytical tools such as rational choice theory, political history, economic analysis and theories of behavioral decision making to enduring problems in the global system. It is expected that students will have studied at least one foreign language through the 200-level; this will be especially important for students planning to study abroad. International Relations and Politics is a new initiative of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, offered through the Department of Social and Decision Sciences, and is available as a primary major, additional major, and minor.

Policy and Management

The Policy and Management major prepares students for key decision making and management roles in government, politics, the non-profit sector and business. The major emphasizes analytic approaches to decision making, management and organization, and combines that knowledge with practical skills necessary to excel in the public and private sectors. The multidisciplinary curriculum merges frontier knowledge on both the ideals of decision making, policy and organization, as well as the realities of individual and organizational behavior. Because of its strong analytic orientation, it is also an excellent major for those who intend to go on to professional school programs in law, business or public policy or graduate degrees in economics, political science or decision science.

Department of Statistics

Statistics

Statistics is the science and art of making predictions and decisions in the face of uncertainty. Statistical issues are central to big questions in public policy, law, medicine, industry, computing, technology, finance and science. Indeed, the tools of statistics apply to problems in almost every area of human activity where data are collected. Statisticians must master diverse skills in computing, mathematics, decision making, forecasting, interpretation of complicated data and design of meaningful comparisons, and must learn to collaborate effectively with people in other fields to understand the substance of these other fields. Students in the statistics major master a wide array of skills in computing, mathematics, statistical theory and the interpretation and display of complex data. Majors gain experience applying statistical tools to real problems in other fields and learn the nuances of interdisciplinary collaboration.

Humanities Scholars Program

The Humanities Scholars Program is an undergraduate initiative to foster superior academic work in the college. Student scholars are selected who have a special interest or affinity in the humanities. The program includes a shared set of classes during the first two years. As practiced within its four departments (English, History, Philosophy and Modern Languages), the program provides broad reflexive analysis of humanity and its artifacts.

Science and Humanities Scholars Program

The Science and Humanities Scholars Program invites students who wish to build upon a solid academic foundation in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences and mathematics. Students enroll in either the Mellon College of Science or the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.