

Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Education Office

This has been another busy and productive year for the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (HASS) Education Office. Ongoing tasks included working with the HASS Overview Committee (Bette Davis as ex officio member and Liz Friedman as secretary), handling HASS concentrations and minors, handling the Harvard Cross-Registration Program for MIT undergraduates, and compiling statistics for the dean of the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (SHASS). Dr. Davis continued to be involved with the undergraduate exchange component of the Cambridge-MIT Exchange, specifically helping to facilitate MIT students' receiving HASS credit for coursework done at Cambridge.

Most of the year has been spent in transition, due to the revision of the HASS Requirement. On May 20, 2009, the MIT Faculty voted to shift responsibility for the HASS Requirement from SHASS to the new Committee on the Undergraduate Program Subcommittee on the HASS Requirement (SHR). Beginning in AY2011, overview of the HASS Requirement will be handled by the staff for the subcommittee within the Office of Faculty Support. All HASS Requirement policy matters will now be under the purview of SHR. There are two exceptions to this rule: the Subcommittee on the Communication Requirement (SOCR) will license CI-H and CI-HW classes. Additionally, the HASS Overview Committee, which will henceforth be referred to as the SHASS Education Advisory Committee, will continue to license HASS-D subjects until they are phased out entirely in AY2014. The SHASS Education Advisory Committee will be primarily charged with advising the SHASS dean on educational matters.

As part of this shift, the HASS Education Office will close on July 1, 2010. Dr. Bette Davis will retire and Liz Friedman will become the new SHASS academic administrator. Most of the HASS Education Office's routine HASS Requirement-related tasks will be handled by the SHR staff in the Office of Faculty Support. However, Liz Friedman will continue to handle all higher-level academic advising for students, faculty, departments, programs, and sections. Ms. Friedman will continue to serve as the liaison between departments and the Dean's Office, particularly in regard to HASS minors, major departures, and joint-degrees. She will also continue to oversee the Harvard Cross-Registration Program and advise students on HASS through the Cambridge-MIT Exchange. As the SHASS academic administrator, Ms. Friedman will serve as the central advisor for HASS matters, replacing the HASS Education Office in that regard.

HASS Enrollment Statistics by Field and Subject: Recent Trends

Total enrollments in all HASS subjects increased this year to 10,038, compared to 10,001 in AY2009, and 9,804 in AY2008. There were more HASS subjects offered than last year: 555, compared to 542 in AY2009, and 512 in AY2008. The number of HASS-D subjects decreased: 125, compared to 139 in AY 2009 and 129 the year before. The two fields with the largest overall enrollments were the same as last year: foreign languages and literatures (1,848, up from 1,810 last year) and economics (1,553, down from 1,735 last year). Fields with the third and fourth highest enrollments were literature (839) and music (836, not including six-unit performance subjects). These were followed by writing and humanistic studies (766), history (612), and philosophy (547).

There was considerable range among the various HASS disciplines; some experienced a drop in enrollments, some remained stable, and some saw an increase. Eleven fields experienced an increase, compared to five that showed a decrease. Enrollments in four fields—anthropology, archaeology, philosophy, and theater arts—remained essentially the same, varying by fewer than 10 students. The largest percentage increase (53.5%) was in comparative media studies (CMS), whose enrollments rose from 99 to 152 students; however, this statistic includes enrollment in 14 subjects, compared to eight subjects in AY2009. The next largest percentage increase was in women’s and gender studies, 23% (from 95 to 117); followed by science, technology, and society, 21% (387 to 469); and history of architecture and art, 19% (104 to 124).

HASS Concentrations: Patterns of Popularity

In AY2010, students submitted 2,146 HASS concentration proposals and 1,070 completion forms, compared to 2,126 proposals and 1,083 completion forms in AY2009, and 2,081 proposals and 1,149 completion forms in AY2008. Once again, economics and foreign languages led in the number of completed HASS concentrations: in AY2010, 293 students completed concentrations in economics (compared to 306 last year) and 219 completed concentrations in foreign languages and literatures (compared to 226 last year). For a breakdown by languages, see Table 2. The third most popular HASS concentration field was music, with 97 completed concentrations. The next most popular concentrations were history (55), political science (52), literature (49), and writing (41).

HASS Minor Programs

The number of HASS minors in AY2009 increased to 414 HASS minor applications from all graduating classes last year from 390 last year. The number of HASS minors received by the Class of 2010 was also up, from 192 to 223. The three most popular fields in terms of applications filed were economics (114), music (48), and applied international studies (34). There were 60 minor applications in foreign languages and literatures, including 16 in Spanish, 15 in Chinese, 14 in Japanese, nine in French, and six in German. The next most popular fields were writing (20), literature (18), psychology (18), public policy (13), and science, technology, and society (13). The 223 HASS minors received by members of the Class of 2010 were in 23 fields.

Harvard Cross-Registration

The number of MIT undergraduates who cross-registered for courses at Harvard increased this year: 200 students took 226 subjects in AY2010, compared to 175 students enrolled in 187 subjects in AY2009, and 215 students enrolled in 251 subjects in AY2008. Enrollments seem to fluctuate for no obvious reason. Foreign languages maintained its rank as the most popular field; AY2008 year was the only year since we began compiling statistics in AY1983 that it was not in that position. In AY2010, 101 students enrolled in foreign languages, 42 more than in the next most popular field, social sciences.

The 101 foreign language subjects included a total of 23 different languages. Among the more esoteric were Igbo, Tamil, and Twi. The most popular language was Chinese (15), followed by Arabic and Russian (12 each). Enrollments in other languages ranged from one to nine. The most popular fields outside foreign languages were chemistry (21), psychology (14), and economics (12).

Undergraduate Degrees Granted in SHASS

Eighty-nine students received the SB in SHASS this year, compared to 82 last year and 78 the previous year. Of these, 39 degrees were in economics (Course 14), followed by 12 in CMS, 10 in music, seven in political science (Course 17), and six in literature. During this time period (September 2009 through June 2010), a total of 39 students completed the SB degree in some specified field in the humanities (Course 21), including CMS. Four of those 39 received joint degrees, 21-E and 21-S. Three students received the SB in philosophy (Course 24-1); one received the SB in linguistics and philosophy (Course 24-2).

Undergraduate Majors in SHASS

The four departments in SHASS had 150 undergraduate majors this year, according to the Registrar's Office "Y" Report, which is compiled in October and does not include non-primary degrees or second majors. There were 292 undergraduate majors in SHASS according to figures compiled by the SHASS academic administrator in July. These later statistics include non-primary degrees and second majors. Using the more complete statistics, 154 of these majors were in economics, 36 in political science, and 31 in CMS. Twenty-six students had a humanities major as one of their degrees or majors in AY2010, not counting CMS; of these 26, nine were joint majors (six in 21-E and three in 21-S.) Of the specified majors within humanities, 19 were in music, 10 in literature, and 10 in writing. Eleven undergraduates had a major in linguistics and philosophy.

Honors and Awards Granted to Undergraduate Majors in SHASS

Among the more notable honors achieved by SHASS majors this year were:

Award for Excellence in Foreign Languages and Literatures—Distinguished Student: Christopher Bukowski '10

Boit Manuscript Prize—Drama: 2nd prize, Anna Waldman-Brown '11

Boit Manuscript Prize—Essay: 1st prize, Abdul Munir '10

Boit Manuscript Prize—Fiction: 1st prize, Gillian Conahan '10

Burchard Scholars: Mengjie Ding '12, Sara Drakeley '12, Dora Gao '11, Jennifer Lai '11, Allen Lin '11, Julie Reardon '11, Emma Rosen '11, Sarah Rumbley '12, Cory Smith '11, Adrianna Tam '11, Andy Wu '12, Chao Xue '12, Michael Zomnir '11

Distinguished Dedication Award: Joseph Diaz '10

Emerson Music Fellowships: Jennifer Lai '11 (piano), Simone Ovsey '10 (percussion), Sarah Rumbley '11 (piano)

Emerson Music Scholarships: Zachary Addison '11 (violin), Erik Feng '10 (clarinet), Diana Hsieh '13 (piano), Adrianna Tam '11 (mezzo-soprano), Julia Zimmerman '13 (viola)

Enterprise Poets Prize in Imagining a Future: 1st prize, Anna Waldman-Brown '11; 2nd prize, Anthony Farrell '13

Epstein Award: Simone Ovsey '10

Four Weeks for America: Briana Diaz '10, Timothy McKinley '11, Lyndz Steeves '11, Steven White '11

Fulbright Scholars: Charles DeRobertis '10, Manvi Goel '10

Gregory Tucker Memorial Prizes: Jared Sadoian '10, Adrianna Tam '11

Literature Prize: SeoHyung Kim G, Anneke Schwob G

Louis Sudler Prize in the Arts: Daniel A. Perez '10

MIT Annual Design and Fabrication Competition: 1st Place, Frederick Kim '11

MIT Impact: Thomas Hay '10

Paul and Priscilla Gray Value-Added Internships IAP 2010: Samantha Marquart '11

Peter J. Eloranta Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships: Michael Paul Medlock-Walton '10, Matt Lord '10

Phi Beta Kappa 2010 Inductees: Peter Bojo '10, Matthew Cohen '10, Ravi Deedwania '10, Kevin Lim '10, Kristiana Schneck '10, Lilei Xu '10

Philip Loew Memorial Awards: Kristiana Schneck '10, Jennifer Lai '11

Public Service Center Grants: Anju Somani '11 (Summer 2009), Ruben Alonzo '11 (Fall 2009, Spring 2010)

Public Service Fellowships IAP 2010: Thomas Hay '10, Anna Waldman-Brown '11

Rhodes Scholars: Ugwechi Amadi '10, Caroline Huang '10, Steven Mo '10

Robert A. Boit Writing Prize—Essay: 1st prize, Abdul Munir '10; 2nd prize, Seohyung Kim '10; 3rd prize, Emma Rosen '11

Robert A. Boit Writing Prize—Poetry: 1st prize, Seohyung Kim '10

Robert A. Boit Writing Prize—Short Story: 1st prize, Seohyung Kim '10; 3rd prize, Abdul Munir '10

S. Klein Prize for Scientific Writing: 2nd prize, Fangfei Shen '11

S. Klein Prize for Technical Writing: 1st prize, Amelia Chang '12

Vera List for Writing on the Visual Arts: 1st prize, Emma Rosen '11

Liz Friedman

Table 1. Enrollment in Humanities, Arts, and Social Science Subjects, 2009–2010

Field	Elective subjects		HASS-Distribution		Total enrollment	
	Subjects	Students	Subjects	Students	Subjects	Students
Anthropology	15	100	4	83	19	183
Archaeology	5	69	1	49	6	118
CMS	12	99	2	53	14	152
Economics	23	1,529	1	24	24	1,553
Foreign Languages & Literatures	90	1,188	25	660	115	1,848
History	29	282	13	330	42	612
History of Architecture & Art	2	12	4	112	6	124
Linguistics	7	57	3	152	10	209
Literature	33	264	22	575	55	839
Music*	33	443	11	393	44	836
Philosophy	16	170	6	377	22	547
Political Science	22	264	5	106	27	370
Psychology	10	412	0	0	10	412
Science, Technology, & Society	17	129	6	340	23	469
Theater Arts ^a	19	235	2	27	21	262
Urban Studies	16	196	2	51	18	247
Visual Arts	12	100	2	72	14	172
Women's & Gender Studies	12	53	4	64	16	117
Writing	42	624	10	142	52	766
Other Subjects	15	172	2	30	17	202
Total	430	6,398	125	3,640	555	10,038

Notes:

1. Figures were obtained from the MIT Student Information System, which shows the final tally for each class.
2. The numbers shown are for undergraduate subjects that normally satisfy the HASS Requirement; they do not include subjects allowed by petition.
3. For joint subjects, figures are given for the subject number under which students enrolled.
4. HASS-D Language Option subjects (Level III or IV languages) are included in the HASS-D figures.
5. Independent Activities Period HASS-Elective subjects and enrollments are included in this year's figures for the first time.

* Music and Theater Arts 6-unit performance subjects are not included in these statistics.

Table 2. Concentrations in All the Fields of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences*, June 2010

Fields of concentration	Class of 2013		Class of 2012		Class of 2011		Class of 2010		Total	
	P*	C**	P*	C**	P*	C**	P*	C**	P*	C**
American Studies	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	2	5	2
Ancient & Medieval Studies	0	0	3	0	11	1	8	6	22	7
Anthropology	0	0	5	1	7	0	16	16	28	17
Archaeology & Archaeological Science	0	0	0	0	5	0	11	11	16	11
Black Studies	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	3	0
Comparative Media Studies	0	0	13	0	15	0	25	23	53	23
Development Economics	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	3	1
East Asian Studies	0	0	2	0	13	2	14	13	29	15
Economics	0	0	61	0	151	18	292	275	504	293
Ethics	1	0	2	0	8	1	3	3	14	4
Ethnic Studies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Foreign Languages***	3	0	129	2	160	13	226	204	518	219
History	0	0	10	0	27	6	50	49	87	55
History of Architecture & Art	0	0	1	0	3	0	4	2	8	2
Labor in Industrial Society	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Latin American Studies	0	0	1	0	2	0	3	3	6	3
Linguistics	0	0	6	0	15	5	13	12	34	17
Literature	0	0	15	1	35	4	46	44	96	49
Middle Eastern Studies	0	0	0	0	3	1	2	2	5	3
Music	0	0	38	2	62	6	97	89	197	97
Philosophy	0	0	13	0	12	4	29	26	54	30
Political Science	0	0	11	0	30	6	49	46	90	52
Psychology	0	0	26	0	28	3	38	35	92	38
Religious Studies	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Russian Studies	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	1
Science, Technology & Society	1	0	18	0	16	2	40	37	75	39
Theater Arts	0	0	11	0	21	6	16	15	48	21
Urban Studies & Planning	0	0	9	1	11	2	8	7	28	10
Visual Arts	0	0	4	0	12	0	12	7	28	7
Women's & Gender Studies	0	0	7	0	5	1	10	10	22	11
Writing	0	0	12	0	20	1	42	40	74	41
Special Concentrations	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	2	4	2
Total	5	0	402	7	680	83	1,059	980	2,146	1,070

*P=Proposed concentrations in the given class and field.

**C=Number of proposed concentrations that have been completed.

***Figures for subfields of Foreign Languages and Literatures are below:

Table 2. Concentrations in All the Fields of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences*, June 2010 (cont.)

Fields of concentration	Class of 2013		Class of 2012		Class of 2011		Class of 2010		Total	
	P*	C**	P*	C**	P*	C**	P*	C**	P*	C**
Chinese	2	0	32	1	38	1	50	39	122	41
English Language Studies	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Foreign Languages & Theory	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
French	0	0	20	0	33	1	39	33	92	34
German	0	0	23	0	12	1	16	15	51	16
International Literature & Cultures	0	0	1	0	3	0	4	4	8	4
Japanese	1	0	24	1	26	3	31	31	82	35
Russian	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Spanish	0	0	26	0	40	7	80	77	146	84
Other Languages	0	0	1	0	7	0	5	4	13	4
Total	3	0	129	2	160	13	226	204	518	219

Table 3. Undergraduate Majors

Year	Economics	Humanities	Linguistics & Philosophy	Political Science	Total
2000–2001	84	25	10	16	135
2001–2002	82	23	11	34	150
2002–2003	80	31	6	23	140
2003–2004	77	38	10	23	148
2004–2005	60	46	10	39	155
2005–2006	64	38	10	16	128
2006–2007	70	26	11	18	125
2007–2008	68	32	8	20	128
2008–2009	82	39	5	14	140
2009–2010*	90 (154)	37 (92)	6 (11)	17 (35)	150 (292)

** Figures not in parenthesis are from the Registrar's "Y" Report as of October 2009, and do not include non-primary degrees or second majors. Figures in parenthesis were calculated in July 2010, and include non-primary degrees, second majors, and any majors which were declared between October and July.

Table 4. Graduate Students

Year	Economics	HASTS*	Linguistics & Philosophy	Political Science	CMS**	Science Writing***	Total
2000–2001	134	26	70	99	13	—	342
2001–2002	140	23	68	85	20	—	336
2002–2003	135	28	67	79	21	7	337
2003–2004	130	28	65	76	18	7	324
2004–2005	132	28	67	77	16	6	326
2005–2006	121	27	72	80	21	7	328
2006–2007	122	28	70	68	20	11	319
2007–2008	114	30	73	68	20	7	312
2008–2009	115	29	71	69	24	9	317
2009–2010	118	30	66	68	12	7	301

*History, Anthropology, and Science, Technology, and Society (HASTS).

**Comparative Media Studies (CMS): AY2000 was the first year of the new CMS graduate program.

***AY2003 was the first year of the new Science Writing graduate program.

Table 5. HASS Minor Applicants for Classes of 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013

Field	Applications	Candidates*
Ancient & Medieval Studies	5	1
Anthropology	3	1
Applied International Studies	34	16
Comparative Media Studies	10	3
Economics	114	74
Foreign Languages		
Chinese	15	6
French	9	4
German	6	2
Japanese	14	3
Spanish	16	9
History	4	3
History of Architecture & Art	0	0
Linguistics	2	0
Literature	18	10
Music	48	25
Philosophy	5	3
Political Science	28	21
Psychology	18	9
Public Policy	13	5

Table 5. HASS Minor Applicants for Classes of 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013 (cont.)

Field	Applications	Candidates*
Regional Studies Minor Programs		
African & African Diaspora	0	0
East Asian Studies	2	1
European Studies	0	0
Latin American Studies	2	1
Middle Eastern Studies	0	0
Russian Studies	0	0
Science, Technology & Society	13	7
Theater Arts	9	3
Urban Studies and Planning	5	4
Women's Studies	1	0
Writing	20	12
Total	414	223

*Includes February and June 2010, and September 2009 candidates.