

Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Education Office

Academic year 2005 was a busy year for the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (HASS) Education Office. The office continued to provide administrative and clerical support to the HASS Overview Committee (HOC), which completed its usual tasks of licensing HASS-D subjects this year—both new and renewals—as well as approving new HASS Communication Intensive (CI-H) subjects and dealing with many other HASS curriculum issues. The HOC again discussed evaluation of CI-H subjects; this will be a major topic for the upcoming academic year.

Professor Charles Stewart, who serves on the Task Force on the Undergraduate Educational Commons and chairs the HASS Subcommittee of that group, solicited HOC members' input regarding the HASS component of the General Institute Requirements before resigning as HOC chair and associate dean of the School, effective January 1, 2005, to become head of the Political Science Department. Philosophy professor Ned Hall served as interim HOC chair for the spring semester. The director of the HASS Education Office, Dr. Bette Davis, served as an ex officio member of HOC, and administrative assistant Amy Devin took the minutes.

In addition to working with HOC, the office continued with its normal work of producing the *HASS Guide* each term, handling HASS concentrations and minors (and the Harvard Cross-Registration Program), and compiling various statistics for the dean. We also maintained five databases: the CI-H, HASS Minor, Course 21 Majors, Harvard Cross-Registration, and "Mailing List" databases.

Special projects this year included working with the Registrar's Office to put the petition for HASS credit on the web. We are also working with a private design firm and MIT's Web Communications Services to integrate the HASS Education Office website into the relatively new SHASS website. A second round of usability testing is scheduled for July 2005, and the new website should be operative soon thereafter. Another project has been to explore the possibility of automating HASS concentrations and minors, but this has been put on hold until the Task Force on the Undergraduate Educational Commons makes its report and recommendations.

Dr. Davis continues to be involved with the undergraduate exchange component of the Cambridge-MIT Exchange—specifically, helping to facilitate MIT students' receiving HASS credit for papers done at Cambridge. As part of this effort, she traveled to Cambridge in early October.

HASS Enrollment Statistics

Total enrollments in all HASS subjects were down again—from 9,861 in AY2003 and 9,610 in AY2004 to 9,362 this year. Slightly fewer HASS subjects were offered—462, as compared to 469 in AY2004. There were also slightly fewer autonomous sections—596 for AY2004 and 590 for AY2005. The number of HASS-D subjects taught was down slightly—111, as compared to 119 last year. (One hundred eleven HASS-D subjects were also taught in the previous year, AY2003.)

The two fields with the largest overall enrollments were the same as last year, and in the same order: 1,746 in economics (up from 1,629 last year) and 1,601 in foreign languages and literatures (up from 1,523 last year). The fields with the third- and fourth-highest enrollments also remained the same: literature (915) and writing (713). They were followed by music (631) and political science (597). (The figure for music does not include six-unit music performance subjects.)

Although there was a considerable range among the various HASS disciplines—from a significant drop in enrollments all the way to a significant increase—the majority experienced a decrease, whether large or small. The increases of 16% in linguistics (from 187 to 216) and 13% in history (from 507 to 572) were the largest in terms of percentage. They were followed by a 7% increase in economics (from 1,629 to 1,746), a 6% increase in women’s studies (from 96 to 102), and a 5% increase in foreign languages and literatures (from 1,523 to 1,601). In contrast, enrollments in urban studies remained exactly the same, and music had very nearly the same number of students. All other fields experienced a decrease.

HASS Concentrations: Patterns of Popularity

In AY2005, students submitted 2,068 HASS concentration proposals and 1,126 completion forms, as compared to 2,165 proposals and 1,148 completion forms the previous year. Once again, economics and foreign languages led in the number of completed HASS concentrations: 334 in economics (versus 322 in AY2004) and 195 in foreign languages and literatures (versus 221). (For a breakdown by languages, see Table 2.) The next most popular field of concentration is music, with 106 completed concentrations. These three are followed at a distance by political science (56), philosophy (51), and literature and history, tied at 49.

HASS Minor Programs

Academic year 2005 showed a decrease in the total number of HASS minor applications from all graduating classes—436, as compared to 467 last year. The number of HASS minors received by the Class of 2004 was also down—198, as compared to 225 last year. The two most popular fields as measured by the number of applications filed were the same as last year: economics, with 152, and music, with 50. There were 45 minor applications in foreign languages and literatures (2 in Chinese, 16 in French, 8 in German, and 19 in Spanish), 33 in political science, 30 in applied international studies, 22 in literature, 15 in comparative media studies, and 14 in writing. The 198 HASS minors received by members of the Class of 2005 were in 24 fields.

Harvard Cross-Registration

The number of MIT undergraduates cross-registered for courses at Harvard declined again in AY2005. Some 224 students took 258 subjects at Harvard; this compares to 250 students enrolled in 283 subjects in AY2004. In AY2003 there had been an increase, the previous year saw a decrease in these enrollments, and the year prior to that there had been a sizable increase—enrollments seem to fluctuate for no obvious reason. As usual, foreign languages were the most popular field of study, although they constituted a smaller portion of the total number of subjects than they had previously. Some 103 of

the 258 subjects were in 19 different foreign languages. The most popular language was Russian with 13 students. It was followed by Hebrew and French, with 11 each, then Korean with 10. Arabic had 8 students, and 7 took Urdu-Hindi. Enrollments in other languages ranged from 1 to 6. The most popular field outside foreign languages was psychology, with 29. Following psychology, other popular fields were mathematics and economics, with 16 each, followed by government, with 13, and history, with 12.

Undergraduate Degrees Granted in SHASS

There were 83 students who received the SB in SHASS this year, up from 78 last year. Of these, 33 degrees were in economics (Course 14) and 15 were in political science (Course 17). During the same time period, September 2004 through June 2005, a total of 25 students completed the SB degree in humanities (Course 21). Four of these received joint degrees, three in 21-E and one in 21-S. Another 18 received degrees in a specified field within Course 21. Two students received the SB in philosophy and another received the SB in linguistics and philosophy (Course 24). Seven students were awarded the SB in comparative media studies (CMS).

Undergraduate Majors in SHASS

The four departments in SHASS had 141 undergraduate majors this year (this figure includes only first degrees). Sixty of these were in Economics, and the Political Science Department had 33. Thirty-one students had a humanities major as their first degree; of these, 7 were joint majors (6 in 21-E and 1 in 21-S.) Of the 20 specified majors within humanities, writing, and literature, each had five majors; music and history each had four. Eight undergraduates had a first degree in philosophy or in linguistics and philosophy. Nine students majored in CMS.

Honors and Awards

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

- Todd Anderson ESG Teaching Award: Heather M. Jones '05
- The Boit Manuscript Prize: Fiction, 1st prize: Adora Asala '05
- The Boit Manuscript Prize: Essay, 2nd prize: Matthew R. Burns '05
- The Robert A. Boit Writing Prize: Poetry, 1st prize: Jessica Young '06; 3rd prize: Matthew R. Burns '05
- The Robert A. Boit Writing Prize: Short Story, 1st prize: Jocelyn Rodal '06, 2nd prize: Adora Asala '05
- The Robert A. Boit Writing Prize: Essay, 2nd prize: Matthew R. Burns '05 and Jessica Young '06
- Burchard Scholars: Leila Agha '06, Lydia Chilton '06, Jonathan Harris '06, Wen Li '06, Mitra Lohrasbpour '07, Christine McEvilly '07, Ruth Miller '07, and Christopher Suarez '06
- Undergraduate Economics Association Award for Excellence in Writing: 1st prize: Jennifer La'O '05; honorable mention: Lydia Chilton '06 and Fernando Duarte '05

- Austin Kelly III Essay Prizes: Daniel Stein '05
- Phi Beta Kappa: Anna Marie Bohmann '05, Meisha Onelle Farida Bynoe '05, Ariel Nadav Edelstein '05, Erkkko M. Etula '05, Sheila Meena Krishna '05, Amy Beth Luxenberg '05, Lara Anne Rogers '05, and Daniel Ethan Stein '05
- Jeffrey L. Pressman Award: Claudia Gold '06 and Jocelyn Rodal '05
- Louis Sudler Prize in the Arts: Daniel Stein '05
- Anthony and Rosina Sun Fellowship: Geoffrey Kigongo '06
- Philip Loew Memorial Award: Arshan Gailus '06
- Emerson Fellows Certificates of Appreciation: Daniel Stein '05 and Mahni Ghorashi '05
- Achievement Award in Literary Studies: Mahni Ghorashi '05 and Faye Kasemset '05
- Howard R. Swearer Student Humanitarian Award: John Velasco '05
- “In Search of Don Quixote” Award: Anna Marie Bohmann '05 and Kelly Cavazos '07
- January Scholars in France: Noelle Kanaga '06
- Award for Excellence in Foreign Languages and Literatures, 1st prize: Sheila Krishna '05

Bette Davis
Director

More information about the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Education Office can be found online at <http://web.mit.edu/afs/athena.mit.edu/org/h/hass/www/>.

Table 1. Enrollment in Humanities, Arts, and Social Science Subjects, 2004–2005

Field	Elective Subjects			HASS-Distribution			Total Enrollment		
	Subjects	(Sections)	Students	Subjects	(Sections)	Students	Subjects	(Sections)	Students
Anthropology	11	(11)	131	2	(2)	20	13	(13)	151
Archaeology	5	(5)	64	1	(1)	17	6	(6)	81
Economics	20	(42)	1,716	2	(2)	30	22	(44)	1,746
Foreign Languages & Literature	69	(98)	1,018	25	(42)	583	94	(140)	1,601
History	25	(25)	239	12	(12)	333	37	(37)	572
History of Art & Architecture	5	(5)	27	4	(4)	83	9	(9)	110
Linguistics	6	(6)	68	2	(2)	148	8	(8)	216
Literature	37	(37)	316	18	(29)	599	55	(66)	915
Music ^a	28	(32)	334	8	(15)	297	36	(47)	631
Philosophy	12	(12)	127	6	(6)	403	18	(18)	530
Political Science	24	(24)	275	9	(9)	322	33	(33)	597
Psychology	5	(5)	135	1	(1)	327	6	(6)	462
Science, Technology, and Society	15	(15)	93	5	(5)	172	20	(20)	265
Theater Arts*	17	(22)	232	2	(2)	25	19	(24)	257
Urban Studies	12	(12)	178	3	(3)	56	15	(15)	234
Visual Arts	9	(9)	76	2	(4)	70	11	(13)	146
Women's Studies	15	(15)	53	3	(3)	49	18	(18)	102
Writing	33	(59)	600	6	(11)	113	39	(70)	713
Other Subjects	3	(3)	33	0	(0)	0	3	(3)	33

^a Music and Theater Arts six-unit performance subjects are not included in these statistics.

Notes:

1. Figures were obtained from the MITSIS 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. The column for (Sections) indicates the number of autonomous class sections; it does not apply to subjects that meet in a single lecture and divide into discussion sections.

4. For joint subjects, figures are given for the subject number under which students enrolled.

5. HASS-D Language Option subjects (Level III or IV languages) are included in the HASS-D figures.

Table 2. Concentrations in All the Fields of Humanities, Arts, and Social Science^a, June 2005

Fields of Concentration	Class of 2008		Class of 2007		Class of 2006		Class of 2005		Totals in fields	
American Studies	(0)	0	(0)	0	(3)	0	(3)	3	(6)	3
Ancient and Medieval Studies	(0)	0	(2)	0	(2)	0	(1)	1	(5)	1
Anthropology	(0)	0	(6)	0	(12)	1	(10)	8	(28)	9
Archaeology	(0)	0	(4)	0	(5)	0	(6)	6	(15)	6
Black Studies	(0)	0	(0)	0	(3)	0	(2)	2	(5)	2
Comparative Media Studies	(0)	0	(6)	0	(13)	2	(36)	33	(55)	35
East Asian Studies	(0)	0	(8)	0	(12)	1	(31)	29	(51)	30
Economics	(0)	0	(108)	2	(159)	36	(323)	296	(590)	334
Ethnic Studies	(0)	0	(0)	0	(1)	0	(1)	1	(2)	1
Foreign Languages ^b	(6)	0	(94)	3	(125)	17	(188)	175	(413)	195
History	(0)	0	(11)	0	(21)	3	(50)	46	(82)	49
History of Art and Architecture	(0)	0	(2)	0	(0)	0	(1)	1	(3)	1
Labor in Industrial Society	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0
Latin American Studies	(0)	0	(3)	1	(0)	0	(6)	6	(9)	7
Linguistics	(0)	0	(5)	0	(3)	1	(19)	18	(27)	19
Literature	(0)	0	(17)	1	(21)	4	(50)	44	(88)	49
Middle Eastern Studies	(0)	0	(0)	0	(1)	0	(2)	2	(3)	2
Music	(0)	0	(40)	0	(39)	5	(107)	101	(186)	106
Philosophy	(0)	0	(14)	2	(15)	3	(48)	46	(77)	51
Political Science	(0)	0	(22)	0	(26)	4	(57)	52	(105)	56
Psychology	(0)	0	(20)	0	(20)	1	(43)	37	(83)	38
Religious Studies	(0)	0	(1)	0	(1)	0	(0)	0	(2)	0
Russian Studies	(0)	0	(0)	0	(1)	0	(0)	0	(1)	0
Science, Technology, and Society	(0)	0	(11)	0	(19)	3	(27)	25	(57)	28
Theater Arts	(0)	0	(13)	1	(6)	1	(23)	21	(42)	23
Urban Studies	(0)	0	(9)	0	(11)	0	(27)	26	(47)	26
Visual Arts and Design	(0)	0	(1)	0	(2)	0	(14)	12	(17)	12
Women's Studies	(0)	0	(3)	0	(4)	1	(10)	10	(17)	11
Writing	(0)	0	(5)	0	(11)	0	(33)	30	(49)	30
Special Concentrations	(0)	0	(0)	0	(1)	0	(2)	2	(3)	2
Total	(6)	0	(405)	10	(537)	83	(1,120)	1033	(2,068)	1,126

^a The parenthetical figure is the number of proposed concentrations in the given class and field; the figure to its right is the number of these concentrations that have been completed.

^b Figures for subfields of Foreign Languages and Literatures are below:

Chinese	(0)	0	(18)	0	(26)	2	(29)	26	(73)	28
English as a Second Language	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(1)	1	(1)	1
Foreign Languages and Theory	(0)	0	(2)	0	(0)	0	(1)	1	(3)	1
French	(0)	0	(19)	1	(21)	4	(39)	37	(79)	42
German	(5)	0	(10)	0	(13)	0	(18)	17	(46)	17
Int'l Literature and Cultures	(0)	0	(2)	0	(1)	1	(5)	5	(8)	6
Japanese	(0)	0	(12)	0	(17)	1	(29)	27	(58)	28
Other Languages	(0)	0	(2)	0	(6)	1	(5)	3	(13)	4
Russian	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0
Spanish	(1)	0	(29)	2	(41)	8	(61)	58	(132)	68
Total	(6)	0	(94)	3	(125)	17	(188)	175	(413)	195

Table 3. Undergraduate Majors

Year	Economics	Humanities ^a	Linguistics & Philosophy	Political Science	Total
1995–1996	101	49	6	19	175
1996–1997	99	31	8	31	169
1997–1998	111	41	12	30	194
1998–1999	91	55	6	18	170
1999–2000	93	29	14	15	146
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

^a These figures do not include double majors who registered first in a course other than Humanities. (If double majors are included, the figure is 73.)

Table 4. Graduate Students

Year	Economics	HASTS ^a	Linguistics & Philosophy	Political Science	CMS ^b	Science Writing ^c	Total
1995–1996	138	27	63	107	—	—	335
1996–1997	132	28	68	123	—	—	351
1997–1998	122	31	65	120	—	—	338
1998–1999	121	33	69	116	—	—	339
1999–2000	129	31	68	90	5	—	323
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

^a HASTS = History, Anthropology, and STS (Science, Technology, and Society).

^b CMS (Comparative Media Studies): AY1999–2000 was the first year of the new CMS Graduate Program.

^c Science Writing: AY2002–2003 was the first year of the new Science Writing Graduate Program.

Table 5. HASS Minor Applicants for Classes of 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008

Field	Applications	Candidates^a
Ancient and Medieval Studies	1	1
Anthropology	2	0
Applied International Studies	30	8
Comparative Media Studies	15	8
Economics	152	78
Foreign Languages		
Chinese	2	1
French	16	9
German	8	1
Spanish	19	5
History	12	7
History of Art and Architecture	0	0
Linguistics	3	1
Literature	22	5
Music	50	27
Philosophy	10	8
Political Science	33	14
Psychology	12	1
Public Policy	8	2
Regional Studies Minor Programs		
African and African Diaspora	1	1
East Asian Studies	5	3
European Studies	1	1
Latin American Studies	2	1
Middle Eastern Studies	0	0
Russian Studies	0	0
Science, Technology and Society	4	2
Theater Arts	7	3
Urban Studies and Planning	6	2
Women's Studies	1	0
Writing	14	9
Total	436	198

^aIncludes February and June 2005 and September 2004 candidates.