

Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Education Office

Academic year 2005–2006 was a particularly busy one for the HASS Education Office. Besides providing administrative and clerical support to the HASS Overview Committee (HOC), the office also provided support to an “HOC+” Committee that was appointed to provide recommendations to the Task Force on the Educational Commons concerning the HASS portion of the General Institute Requirements. HOC+ met weekly in the summer and throughout the fall semester. Professor Deborah Fitzgerald, SHASS associate dean, HOC and HOC+ chair, wrote the HOC+ report with recommendations and submitted it in January 2006. The HOC itself continued to discuss evaluation of CI-H subjects and other HASS curricular issues. The licensing of HASS-D and CI-H subjects was suspended this year, to allow the committee to focus its attention on task force issues as well as a new evaluation of Communication Intensive classes. The director of the HASS Education Office, Dr. Bette Davis, served as *ex officio* member of HOC and HOC+, and administrative assistant Patricia Fernandes took the minutes. In addition to working with these committees, the office continued to produce the *HASS Guide* each term, handled HASS concentrations and minors, administered the Harvard Cross-Registration Program, and compiled 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.

The new website, which was implemented last year, seems to be successful. The project of exploring the possibility of automating HASS concentrations and minors continues to be on hold until the Task Force on the Educational Commons makes its report and recommendations.

Dr. Davis has continued to be involved with the undergraduate exchange component of the Cambridge-MIT Exchange, helping to facilitate MIT students’ receiving HASS credit for coursework done at the University of Cambridge. As part of this effort, she traveled to Cambridge, England, in early October.

HASS Enrollment Statistics by Field and Subject—Recent Trends

After a steady decline over the last three years, total enrollments in all HASS subjects were up this year—from 9,362 in AY2005 to 9,674 this year. There were significantly more HASS subjects offered—516, compared to 462 the previous year, and 469 the year before that (AY2004). There were correspondingly more autonomous sections—590 for AY2005 and 636 for AY2006. The number of HASS-D subjects taught was also up—126, compared to 111 last year. The two fields with the largest overall enrollments were the same as last year: 1,746 in economics (*exactly* the same as last year) and 1,727 in foreign languages and literatures (up from 1,601). Fields with the third and fourth highest enrollments also remained the same: literature (847) and writing and humanistic studies (785). These were followed by history (651) and music (597, not including six-unit music performance subjects). Although there was a considerable range among the various disciplines in HASS—some experienced a significant drop in enrollments, some remained stable, and some fields saw a significant increase—the number that saw an increase almost exactly equaled the number showing a decrease. Anthropology

had by far the largest increase in enrollments in terms of percentage—86 percent, from 151 to 281. Anthropology was followed by STS, with a 26 percent increase (265 to 335); history of art and architecture, with an 18 percent increase (110 to 130); and history, 14 percent (572 to 651). Other fields with increased enrollments were foreign languages and literatures and writing. CMS enrollments (28) were recorded for the first time, since AY2005 was the first year undergraduate HASS classes with a CMS course number were offered. All other fields experienced a decrease.

Hass Concentrations: Patterns of Popularity

In AY2006, students submitted 1,861 HASS concentration proposals and 1,039 completion forms, compared to 2,068 proposals and 1,126 completion forms the previous year. Once again, economics and foreign languages led in the number of completed HASS concentrations: 325 students completed concentrations in economics (compared to 334 the previous year), and 183 completed concentrations in foreign languages and literatures (compared to 195 the previous year). (For a breakdown by languages, see Table 2.) The next most popular field for HASS concentration is music, with 87 completed concentrations. These three are followed at a distance by literature (53), political science (48), psychology (45), and philosophy (42).

Hass Minor Programs

The number of HASS minors decreased again in AY2006, with 414 HASS minor applications from all graduating classes, compared to 436 the previous year. The number of HASS minors received by the Class of 2006 was also down—174, as compared to 198 the previous year. The two most popular fields in number of applications filed were economics (121) and foreign languages and literatures (50, including four in Chinese, 13 in French, 10 in German, one in Japanese, and 22 in Spanish). There were 46 minor applications in applied international studies, 40 in music, 29 in literature, and 24 in political science. The 174 HASS minors received by members of the Class of 2006 were in 22 fields.

Harvard Cross-Registration

The number of MIT undergraduates cross-registered for courses at Harvard declined again, for the third year in a row. Two hundred eleven students took 237 subjects at Harvard, as compared to 224 students enrolled in 258 subjects in AY2005 and 250 students in 283 subjects in AY2004. In AY2003 there had been an increase, the previous year saw a decrease in these enrollments, and in 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, accounting for 101 of the total 237 subjects. Those 101 subjects included 21 different foreign languages. The most popular languages were Arabic (18) and Korean (17). Those were followed by Hebrew (12) and Russian (11). Enrollments in other languages ranged from one to six. The most popular field outside foreign languages was psychology (24). Following psychology, other popular fields were economics (19), followed by chemistry and government (11 each).

Undergraduate Degrees Granted in SHASS

Ninety-seven students received the SB in SHASS in AY2006, up from 83 the previous year and 78 the year before that. Of these 97, 38 degrees were in economics (Course 14), 13 were in comparative media studies (CMS), and 9 were in political science (Course 17). During this same time period, 33 students completed the SB degree in some field in humanities (Course 21) other than CMS. Eight of these received the 21-E joint degree. (There were no 21-S graduates.) Another 18 received degrees in a specified field within Course 21. One student received the SB in philosophy, and three others received the SB in linguistics and philosophy (Course 24).

Undergraduate Majors in SHASS

The four departments in SHASS had 128 undergraduate majors in AY2006; this figure includes only first degrees. Sixty-four of these were majoring in economics, 16 in political science, and 14 in comparative media studies. Twenty-four students had a humanities major as their first degree in AY2006; of these, six were joint majors (four in 21-E and two in 21-S.) Of the 14 specified majors within humanities, music had five majors while anthropology, history, and writing each had three. Ten undergraduates had a first degree in philosophy or 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:

- Boit Manuscript Prize–Poetry: 1st prize, Jessica Young '06
- Robert A. Boit Writing Prize–Short Story: 2nd prize, Jean Choi '07
- Burchard Scholars: Tabitha Bonilla '07, Gayle Denman '08, Samantha Weiss '08, Ali Wyne '08, Stella Young '08
- Undergraduate Economics Association Award for Excellence in Writing: 1st prize, Leila Agha '06, Gregory Martin '06, 2nd prize, Sameer Riaz '06
- Austin Kelly III Essay Writing Prize: Jocelyn Rodal '06
- Phi Beta Kappa: Leila Shaw Agha '06, Asarina Alevtina '06, Gregory John Martin '06, Adam Andrew Miller '06, Aroonrath Sangalungkarn '06, Stephan Hyeonjun Stiller '06
- Jeffrey L. Pressman Award: Daniel Barclay '07, Josh Geltman '08, Ravi Gupta '08
- Louis Sudler Prize in the Arts: Adam Miller '06
- Achievement Award in Literary Studies: Jocelyn Rodal '06, Thomas Schilling '06
- Lufthansa Award for Excellence in German Studies: 3rd prize, Petra Stoyanof '07
- Science Fiction Writing Prize: 1st prize, Jocelyn Rodal '06

- Ragnar and Margaret Naess Award—as an “exceptional pianist”: Yee Kwan Lo '08
- Special Recognition—Theater Arts: Christina Chen '06
- Albert G. Hill Prize: Tabitha Bonilla '07
- Association of MIT Alumnae Senior Academic Award: Leila Agha '06
- Fredrick Gardiner Fassett, Jr. Award: Nikki Pfarr '06
- Todd Anderson Award (for excellence in seminar development and teaching): Jocelyn Rodal '06
- Public Service Fellowship (IAP 2006): Sharlina Hussain '07

Bette Davis
Director

More information about the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Education Office can be found at <http://web.mit.edu/shass/undergraduate/>.

Table 1. Enrollment in Humanities, Arts, and Social Science Subjects, 2005–2006

Field	Elective Subjects			HASS-Distribution			Total Enrollment		
	Subjects (Sections)	Students		Subjects (Sections)	Students		Subjects (Sections)	Students	
Anthropology	23	(23)	208	4	(4)	73	27	(27)	281
Archaeology	5	(5)	51	1	(1)	33	6	(6)	84
CMS	2	(2)	28	0	(0)	0	2	(2)	28
Economics	22	(44)	1,683	3	(3)	63	25	(47)	1,746
FL&L	71	(98)	1,097	26	(43)	630	97	(141)	1,727
History	35	(35)	322	16	(16)	329	51	(51)	651
History of Art & Arch	3	(3)	24	4	(5)	106	7	(8)	130
Linguistics	6	(6)	53	2	(2)	151	8	(8)	204
Literature	32	(32)	287	21	(32)	560	53	(64)	847
Music*	25	(29)	335	9	(16)	262	34	(45)	597
Philosophy	13	(13)	159	8	(8)	350	21	(21)	509
Political Science	25	(25)	238	8	(8)	256	33	(33)	494
Psychology	8	(8)	163	1	(1)	294	9	(9)	457
STS	15	(15)	120	6	(6)	215	21	(21)	335
Theater Arts*	20	(25)	208	2	(2)	27	22	(27)	235
Urban Studies	14	(14)	175	1	(1)	33	15	(15)	208
Visual Arts	10	(10)	75	2	(4)	45	12	(14)	120
Women's Studies	13	(13)	32	3	(3)	41	16	(16)	73
Writing	37	(59)	658	7	(9)	127	44	(68)	785
Other Subjects	11	(11)	119	2	(2)	44	13	(13)	163
Totals	390	(470)	6,035	126	(166)	3,639	516	(636)	9,674

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. (#Sections) refers to 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.
- * 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 Science^a, June 2006

Fields of Concentration	Class of 2009		Class of 2008		Class of 2007		Class of 2006		Totals in Fields	
American Studies	(0)	0	(0)	0	(1)	0	(6)	6	(7)	6
Ancient & Medieval Studies	(0)	0	(2)	0	(3)	0	(2)	2	(7)	2
Anthropology	(0)	0	(3)	1	(9)	2	(23)	18	(35)	21
Archaeology	(0)	0	(0)	0	(5)	0	(7)	6	(12)	6
Black Studies	(0)	0	(1)	0	(0)	0	(2)	2	(3)	2
Comparative Media Studies	(1)	0	(6)	0	(10)	0	(31)	26	(48)	26
East Asian Studies	(0)	0	(3)	0	(16)	1	(16)	15	(35)	16
Economics	(0)	0	(59)	1	(165)	32	(310)	292	(534)	325
Ethnic Studies	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(1)	1	(2)	1
Foreign Languages**	(1)	0	(79)	2	(119)	18	(180)	163	(379)	183
History	(0)	0	(8)	0	(18)	3	(39)	39	(65)	42
History of Art & Architecture	(0)	0	(3)	0	(4)	0	(1)	1	(8)	1
Labor in Industrial Society	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0
Latin American Studies	(0)	0	(2)	0	(3)	1	(0)	0	(5)	1
Linguistics	(0)	0	(4)	2	(6)	0	(14)	14	(24)	16
Literature	(0)	0	(15)	0	(25)	3	(53)	50	(93)	53
Middle Eastern Studies	(0)	0	(1)	0	(1)	1	(1)	1	(3)	2
Music	(1)	0	(16)	0	(62)	11	(80)	76	(159)	87
Philosophy	(0)	0	(14)	2	(17)	4	(38)	36	(69)	42
Political Science	(0)	0	(7)	0	(31)	4	(51)	44	(89)	48
Psychology	(0)	0	(6)	0	(31)	4	(45)	41	(82)	45
Religious Studies	(0)	0	(0)	0	(1)	0	(0)	0	(1)	0
Russian Studies	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(1)	1	(1)	1
Science, Technology, & Society	(0)	0	(5)	0	(17)	3	(31)	30	(53)	33
Theater Arts	(0)	0	(3)	0	(15)	2	(18)	17	(36)	19
Urban Studies	(0)	0	(6)	0	(10)	1	(21)	19	(37)	20
Visual Arts & Design	(0)	0	(0)	0	(4)	0	(5)	3	(9)	3
Women's Studies	(0)	0	(1)	0	(4)	1	(5)	5	(10)	6
Writing	(0)	0	(9)	0	(12)	0	(33)	30	(54)	30
Special Concentrations	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(2)	2	(2)	2
TOTALS	(3)	0	(253)	8	(589)	91	(1,016)	940	(1,861)	1,039

^a The parenthetic 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	(12)	0	(22)	2	(38)	34	(72)	36
English as a Second Language	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0
Foreign Language and Theory	(0)	0	(0)	0	(2)	0	(0)	0	(2)	0
French	(1)	0	(11)	0	(22)	3	(26)	26	(60)	29
German	(0)	0	(10)	0	(10)	3	(17)	13	(37)	16
Int'l Literature and Cultures	(0)	0	(1)	0	(2)	0	(3)	3	(6)	3
Japanese	(0)	0	(18)	1	(16)	2	(25)	23	(59)	26
Other Languages	(0)	0	(0)	0	(5)	2	(9)	9	(14)	11
Russian	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0
Spanish	(0)	0	(27)	1	(40)	6	(62)	55	(129)	62
TOTALS	(1)	0	(79)	2	(119)	18	(180)	163	(379)	183

Table 3. Undergraduate Majors

Year	Economics	Humanities*	Linguistics & Philosophy	Political Science	Total
1995-96	101	49	6	19	175
1996-97	99	31	8	31	169
1997-98	111	41	12	30	194
1998-99	91	55	6	18	170
1999-00	93	29	14	15	151
2000-01	84	25	10	16	135
2001-02	82	23	11	34	150
2002-03	80	31	6	23	140
2003-04	77	38	10	23	148
2004-05	60	46	10	39	155
2005-06	64	38	10	16	128

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

Table 4. Graduate Students

Year	Economics	HASTS ¹	Linguistics & Philosophy	Political Science	CMS ²	Science Writing ³	Total
1995-96	138	27	63	107			335
1996-97	132	28	68	123			351
1997-98	122	31	65	120			338
1998-99	121	33	69	116			339
1999-00	129	31	68	90	5		323
2000-01	134	26	70	99	13		342
2001-02	140	23	68	85	20		336
2002-03	135	28	67	79	21	7	337
2003-04	130	28	65	76	18	7	324
2004-05	132	28	67	77	16	6	326
2005-06	121	27	72	80	21	7	328

¹ HASTS = History, Anthropology, and STS (Science, Technology, and Society).

² CMS (Comparative Media Studies): AY1999-2000 was the first year of the CMS Graduate Program.

³ Science Writing: AY2002-2003 was the first year of the Science Writing Graduate Program.

Table 5. HASS Minor Applicants for Classes of 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009

Field	Applications	Candidates*
Ancient & Medieval Studies	3	2
Anthropology	5	2
Applied International Studies	46	6
Comparative Media Studies	8	3
Economics	121	73
Foreign Languages		
Chinese	4	1
French	13	6
German	10	1
Japanese	1	0
Spanish	22	4
History	10	5
History of Art & Architecture	1	0
Linguistics	4	1
Literature	29	13
Music	40	16
Philosophy	2	1
Political Science	24	7
Psychology	16	9
Public Policy	10	5
Regional Studies Minor Programs		
African & African Diaspora	0	0
East Asian Studies	4	3
European Studies	0	0
Latin American Studies	2	0
Middle Eastern Studies	0	0
Russian Studies	0	0
Science, Technology & Society	8	4
Theater Arts	7	2
Urban Studies and Planning	7	3
Women's Studies	3	0
Writing	14	7
Total Minor Applications and Candidates	414	174

*Includes February and June 2006, and September 2005 candidates