

School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences

The [School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences \(SHASS\)](#)—the third largest school at MIT—employs a teaching faculty comparable in size to that of most liberal arts colleges, and plays a number of important roles at MIT. Among other functions, the School:

- Offers 17 undergraduate major programs and 30 undergraduate minor programs
- Enrolls more than 10,000 undergraduates each year in Anthropology; Comparative Media Studies; Economics; Global Studies and Languages; History; Linguistics; Literature; Music; Philosophy; Political Science; Science, Technology, and Society; Theater Arts; Women’s and Gender Studies; and Writing
- Supports five doctoral programs with more than 1,700 enrollments in Economics; Linguistics; Philosophy; Political Science; and History, Anthropology, and Science, Technology, and Society (HASTS)—all ranking within the top 20 of similar programs internationally. The Linguistics program is ranked first and the Economics program is ranked second among international universities according to QS World University Rankings
- Provides over 500 subjects that count towards the undergraduate Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (HASS) requirement, an eight-class portion of the General Institute Requirement
- Operates the MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives (MISTI)—MIT’s pioneering international education program—which matches more than 1000 students with internship, teaching, and research opportunities abroad each year

More details on teaching and research in SHASS over the past year are described below.

Undergraduate Education

SHASS faculty are uniquely involved in the intellectual development of MIT undergraduates. Every MIT undergraduate student, regardless of major, is required to take a minimum of eight subjects in HASS. Undergraduates who want a deeper engagement with the disciplines represented by the School may pursue a major or minor in one of our departments or sections, or choose from among several interdisciplinary majors and minors.

As the interests of students admitted to MIT continue to diversify, the School’s role in the mainstream education of MIT’s scientists and engineers becomes ever more important. Having faculty members of national rank in the fields of humanities, arts, and social sciences ensures that MIT undergraduates receive a rounded education. SHASS faculty members’ educational mission is reflected in the positive teaching evaluations received by our instructors and the educational innovations that emanate from the various faculties.

Oversight of the HASS requirement is the purview of the Subcommittee on the HASS Requirement, a standing subcommittee of the Committee on the Undergraduate Program. Under this system, undergraduates are required to take three HASS Distribution subjects, one from each of the three categories: arts, humanities, and social sciences. The committee deals with individual student petitions and approves new subjects for HASS credit.

The SHASS Education Advisory Committee is charged with considering the full range of issues related to undergraduate education in the School. This past year, the committee was chaired by Associate Dean Agustín Rayo (Philosophy). The other committee members were Professors Janet Sonenberg (Music and Theater Arts) and T.L. Taylor (Comparative Media Studies). SHASS academic administrator, Andrea Wirth, served as an ex officio member.

In September 2017, the School held its fifth annual TOUR de SHASS, a student fair designed to give a lightning tour of the department, program, and section offerings. All SHASS academic programs participated. The fair will be scaled up and continued on an annual basis.

Undergraduate Enrollment Statistics: Recent Trends

Total enrollments in all undergraduate SHASS subjects jumped to 10,699 in academic year 2018 (from 10,297 in AY2017, 10,096 in AY2016, and 10,118 in AY2015), and the number of undergraduate SHASS subjects offered increased to 515 (from 503 in AY2017, 488 in AY2016 and AY2015). The three fields with the largest overall enrollments remained the same as last year: Global Studies and Languages (2,297, up from 2,127 in AY2017), Economics (1,648, down slightly from 1,654 in AY2017), and Music (1,390, up from 1,357 in AY2017). The next highest enrollments were in Political Science (1,306), Theater Arts (850), Writing (774), and Literature (764).

Enrollment in School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Fields, AY2018

Field	Undergraduate subjects	Undergraduate enrollment	Graduate subjects	Graduate enrollment
Anthropology	15	295	5	57
Comparative Media Studies	42	628	42	466
Economics	32	1,648	51	1,219
Global Studies and Languages	135	2297	71	764
History	42	540	3	20
Linguistics	14	287	25	276
Literature	58	764	–	–
Music	64	1,390	8	86
Philosophy	24	688	13	101
Political Science	47	1,306	34	419
Science, Technology, and Society	22	345	12	150
Theater Arts	34	850	4	40
Women’s and Gender Studies	30	406	4	8
Writing	48	774	10	94
Total (master subjects only)	515	10,699	132	1,759

Note: Final enrollments are for subjects offered by departments, programs, and sections in the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences at the end of fall 2017, Independent Activities Period 2018, and spring 2018 semesters. In the case of joint and meets-with subject clusters, enrollment numbers are calculated by the total number of students in the class, regardless of which subject number they signed up under. Totals are calculated by master subjects and will not match the totals for each column (which count jointly listed subjects in each of the fields involved). In cases where subjects have two undergraduate “meets with” numbers in the same field and category, enrollments are counted twice—once under each subject number. The numbers shown are for undergraduate and graduate subjects excluding only subjects which are scheduled on an individual basis, such as theses.

Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Concentrations

In AY2018, students completed 1,243 concentrations in SHASS fields (compared with 1,300 in AY2017, 1,259 in AY2016, and 1,220 in AY2015). Once again, Global Studies and Languages and Economics led in the number of completed HASS concentrations, with 278 students completing concentrations in Global Studies and Languages (321 in AY2017) and 295 completing concentrations in Economics (282 in AY2017). The third most popular HASS concentration was Music, with 131 completed concentrations (134 in AY2017). The next most popular concentrations were Political Science (67), Theater Arts (61), Philosophy (58), Comparative Media Studies (57), and Science, Technology, and Society (55).

Concentrations in the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences as of June 2018

Concentration field	All active concentrations	Completed concentrations
African and African Diaspora Studies	5	2
American Studies	3	1
Ancient and Medieval Studies	17	6
Anthropology	39	20
Asian and Asian Diaspora Studies	40	27
Comparative Media Studies	107	57
Development Economics	2	0
Economics	461	295
Ethics	12	7
Global Studies and Languages*	432	278
History	49	29
Latin American and Latino Studies	2	1
Legal Studies	3	3
Linguistics	63	33
Literature	62	40
Middle Eastern Studies	3	2
Music	246	131
Philosophy	109	58
Political Science	109	67
Religious Studies	0	0
Russian and Eurasian Studies	13	9
Science, Technology and Society	82	55
Special Concentration	10	5
Theater Arts	119	61
Women's and Gender Studies	36	24
Writing	57	32
Total	2,081	1,243

*Combined count across all languages and areas of studies within Global Studies and Languages

Global Studies and Languages Specific Concentration Breakdown as of June 2018

Specific concentrations	All active concentrations	Completed concentrations
Chinese	77	44
English language studies	4	3
French	80	55
German	37	20
Japanese	69	49
Other languages	29	21
Portuguese	7	5
Russian	6	1
Spanish	111	73
Studies in international literatures and cultures	8	5
Theory of languages	4	2
Total	432	278

Undergraduate Majors

In AY2018, there were 264 active undergraduate majors in SHASS fields, including both primary and secondary degrees (193 in AY2017 and 182 in AY2016). Much of this was due to the introduction of a new joint degree program with Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and Economics: Course 6-14 Computer Science, Economics, and Data Science. Of these, 55 students were awarded majors in SHASS fields (75 in AY2017 and 58 in AY2016). The most awarded majors were in Economics (9), Mathematical Economics (7), Literature (6), Philosophy (5), and Political Science (5).

SHASS Undergraduate Majors by Academic Year

Academic year	Economics	Humanities	Linguistics and philosophy	Political Science	Total
AY2009	(82)	(39)	(5)	(14)	(140)
AY2010	154 (90)	92 (37)	11 (6)	35 (17)	292 (150)
AY2011	156 (95)	75 (33)	17 (4)	40 (19)	281 (151)
AY2012	125 (72)	66 (23)	19 (9)	26 (16)	236 (120)
AY2013	109 (72)	65 (31)	19 (11)	24 (15)	217 (129)
AY2014	91 (58)	59 (31)	24 (17)	15 (10)	189 (116)
AY2015	73 (55)	74 (28)	24 (12)	14 (6)	185 (101)
AY2016	63 (30)	79 (34)	23 (10)	17 (7)	182 (81)
AY2017	76 (27)	86 (33)	18 (10)	14 (7)	194 (77)
AY2018	151* (52)	76 (30)	26 (10)	11 (4)	264 (96)

Note: Figures in parenthesis are from the Registrar's "Y" Report as of October of the fall term, and do not include non-primary degrees or second majors. Figures not in parenthesis were calculated in July, after Commencement, and include non-primary degrees, second majors, majors shared between schools, and any majors that were declared between October and July.

*Includes majors in Course 6-14 Computer Science, Economics, and Data Science.

SHASS Undergraduate Majors Breakdown by Field

Majors	All active majors*	Awarded*
Anthropology	1	0
Comparative Media Studies	16	3
Computer Science, Economics, and Data Science	80	3
Economics	37	9
Global Studies and Languages	2	0
History	1	0
Humanities	2	2
Humanities and Engineering	17	2
Humanities and Science	4	0
Linguistics	11	3
Literature	9	6
Mathematical Economics	34	7
Music	12	4
Philosophy	15	5
Political Science	11	5
Science, Technology, and Society	0	0
Theater Arts	4	3
Writing	8	3
Total	264	55

*Includes students who graduated in September 2017, February 2018, and June 2018

Honors and Awards Granted to Undergraduate Majors

The list below highlights some of the more notable honors achieved by SHASS majors this year.

- Rhodes Scholar: Mary Clare Beytagh (Literature)
- Marshall Scholar: Olivia Zhao (Economics)
- 2018 Burchard Scholars: Riley Davis (Global Studies and Languages), Mehitabel Glenhaber (Comparative Media Studies), Anna Kazlauskas (Mathematical Economics), Nolan Peard (Music), and Sarah Powazek (Political Science)
- 2018 Phi Beta Kappa Inductees: Abraham Bauer (Humanities), Mary Beytagh (Literature), Ying Gao (Economics), Michael Nimerfroh (Economics) Oron Propp (Theater Arts), Bernard Stone (Music and Theater Arts), Rachel Yang (Music and Theater Arts)

- Boit Manuscript Prize, Drama: Rachel Yang, Second Prize (Theater Arts)
- Boit Manuscript Prize, Fiction: Virginia Rosenberger, Second Prize (Writing)
- Boit Manuscript Prize, Poetry: Elise Bickford, First Prize (Philosophy), Hanna Kherzai, Second Prize (Economics)
- Robert A. Boit Writing Prize, Poetry: Elise Bickford, First Prize (Philosophy), Allan (Vera) Ko, Second Prize (Comparative Media Studies)
- Robert A. Boit Writing Prize, Short Story: Hannah Michaye Ledford, First Prize (Writing), Phoebe Cai, Second Prize (Economics), Ivy Li, Third Prize (Literature)
- Edward S. Darna Award for Theater Arts: Peter Duerst (Theater Arts)
- Peter S. Donaldson Prize for Excellence in Literary Studies: Claire Robinson (Literature), Mary Claire Beytagh (Literature)
- David Epstein Award for MIT Symphony Orchestra: Tal Scully (Theater Arts), Bertrand Stone (Music)
- Joseph D. Everingham Award in Theater Arts: Rachel Yang (Theater Arts)
- Kelly-Douglas Essay Award: Elise Bickford (Philosophy)
- King Prize for Writing Science Fiction: Cathryn Hart, Second Prize (Writing)
- Philip Loew Memorial Award for creative accomplishment in music: Isabel Kaspriskie (Music), Amalia Lee (Music)
- Ragnar and Margaret Naess Award for Performance: Sebastian Franjou (Music)
- Jack and Edith Ruina Scholarship Award for Piano: Madeline Wong (Music)
- Louis B. Sudler Prize in the Arts: Bertrand Stone (Music)
- Gregory Tucker Memorial Prize: Katherine Young (Music)
- Laya and Jerome B. Wiesner Student Art Award: Tal Scully (Theater Arts)

Undergraduate Minors

SHASS oversees all HASS minors (including those in departments outside of SHASS). The number of HASS minors awarded in AY2018 was 168 (164 in AY2017, 158 in AY2016). The 168 HASS minors awarded to members of the Class of 2018 were in 27 fields. The three most awarded minors were Economics (41, down from 47 last year), Music (36, up from 19 last year), and Global Studies and Languages (20, down from 22 last year).

HASS Minors as of June 2018

Field	All active minors	Minors awarded
African and African Diaspora Studies	2	2
Ancient and Medieval Studies	8	4
Anthropology	3	3
Applied International Studies	12	8
Art, Culture and Technology	1	0
Asian and Asian Diaspora Studies	0	0
Chinese	13	4
Comparative Media Studies	6	3
Economics	59	41
French	13	5
German	10	2
History	4	1
History of Architecture, Art, and Design	1	1
International Development	1	1
Japanese	14	5
Latin American and Latino/a Studies	0	0
Linguistics	3	1
Literature	11	8
Middle Eastern Studies	2	1
Music	60	36
Philosophy	11	2
Political Science	27	12
Public Policy	17	4
Russian and Eurasian Studies	2	2
Science, Technology, and Society	7	4
Spanish	9	4
Theater Arts	9	3
Urban Studies and Planning	5	4
Women's and Gender Studies	1	1
Writing	12	6
Total	323	168

Note: Includes September 2017, February 2018, and June 2018 graduates

Graduate Education

In AY2018, there were a total of 330 active majors in graduate SHASS fields (335 in AY2017 and 337 in AY2016). Of these, 72 students were awarded graduate majors in SHASS fields (81 in AY2017). Among these students, 23 were awarded the Doctor of Philosophy in Economics, 11 in Political Science, nine in Linguistics, six in Philosophy, and four in History, Anthropology, and Science, Technology and Society. Also, among the graduate majors, eight students were awarded the Master of Science in Comparative Media Studies and eight were awarded the Master of Science in Science Writing.

SHASS Graduate Majors by Academic Year

Academic year	Economics	HASTS*	Linguistics and philosophy	Political science	CMS**	Science writing	Total
AY2009	115	29	71	69	24	9	317
AY2010	118	30	66	68	12	7	301
AY2011	119	28	68	57	3	7	282
AY2012	133	27	66	56	16	8	306
AY2013	123	31	70	60	21	9	314
AY2014	125	35	73	65	18	8	324
AY2015	129	31	76	65	19	8	328
AY2016	130	36	81	65	18	7	337
AY2017	130	32	81	66	18	8	335
AY2018	127	30	80	69	16	8	330

Note: Figures are from the Registrar's "Y" Report as of October of the previous year.

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

**Comparative Media Studies

SHASS Graduate Majors Breakdown by Field

Majors	Awarded
Master of Science: Comparative Media Studies	8
Master of Science: Linguistics	1
Master of Science: Philosophy	0
Master of Science: Political Science	2
Master of Science: Science Writing	8
Master of Science total	19
Doctor of Philosophy: Economics	23
Doctor of Philosophy: HASTS	4
Doctor of Philosophy: Linguistics	9
Doctor of Philosophy: Philosophy	6
Doctor of Philosophy: Political Science	11
Doctor of Philosophy total	53

*Includes students who graduated in September 2017, February 2018, and June 2018

Graduate Student Honors

- The S. Klein Prize for Science Writing was awarded to Francesca Schembri (Science Writing).
- PhD graduate Jeremy Ferwerda '15 won the 2017 Gabriel A. Almond Award.

Diversity Efforts

The School continues to make diversity a priority, with Dean Rayo overseeing those efforts.

The SHASS Faculty Diversity Committee (FDC), chaired by Rayo, works with search committees to ensure that candidates from underrepresented groups are afforded as many opportunities as possible throughout the search process. As part of this effort, the School has established a set of Faculty Search Guidelines, which all faculty search committees are asked to adhere to. The guidelines are designed to encourage search committees to implement practices that empirical research has found to be effective in promoting diversity. They are also designed to ensure frequent contact between search committees and the FDC.

A Diversity Travel Fund has been instituted for faculty attending diversity-related activities or conferences. Faculty who use this fund are asked to submit a brief report on ideas that might further the School's diversity efforts.

SHASS continues to offer diversity pre-doctoral fellowships in every discipline within the School. This program recruits promising PhD students who are in the final stage of their dissertations and offers them a year of support to help them complete their dissertations. Our support includes a modest stipend, office space, and a faculty mentor. The program's goal is to identify promising underrepresented minority PhD students and build lasting ties with them. The program is also intended to send a message that MIT is a welcoming place for scholars from underrepresented groups. Thanks to generous support from the Provost's Office, the fellowship program was able to host nine pre-doctoral fellows in AY2018.

SHASS instructors teach a large number of subjects focusing on issues related to diversity, including subjects on race and ethnicity, cultures outside the United States, gender and sexuality, and globalization or transnationalism. In an effort to highlight these subjects, the school maintains a webpage with up-to-date listings of our more than 140 diversity-related offerings.

Honors and Awards

SHASS faculty members garnered an array of honors and awards this year, as highlighted below:

- Donca Steriade, professor of linguistics, was named Professor Honoris Causa of the University of Bucharest.
- Political science professor Devin Caughey was named to the Silverman Family Career Development Chair.
- Adam Berinsky was named the Mitsui Professor of Political Science.
- Wyn Kelley, senior lecturer of literature and founding member of the Melville Society Cultural Project, received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.
- Daron Acemoglu, Elizabeth and James Killian Professor of Economics, received Doctor Honoris Causa from École Normale Supérieure Paris-Saclay.

- Sandy Alexandre, professor of literature, and Tanalís Padilla, associate professor of history, were awarded yearlong fellowships by the Newhouse Humanities Center Fellowship at Wellesley College.
- Sherry Turkle, the Abby Rockefeller Mauzé Professor of the Social Studies of Science and Technology, was named a finalist for biennial Thinkers50 awards.
- Craig Wilder, the Barton L. Weller Professor of History, delivered the 2017 Capps Memorial Lecture at the National Humanities Conference in Boston.
- Associate professor Christopher Capozzola was awarded the Carnegie Council on International Affairs Fellowship.
- SHASS announced 10 research fund recipients for 2018: Nikhil Agarwal, Charlotte Brathwaite, Sarah Brown, Lerna Ekmekcioglu, Malick Ghachem, Frederick Harris, Jr., Mark Harvey, Sabine Iatridou, Seth Mnookin, and Ariel White.
- Robin Wolfe Scheffler was awarded the 2018 Levitan Prize.
- Victor Chernozhukov, Ford Professor of Economics, received the Humboldt Research Award for lifetime achievement in research.
- Lily Tsai, associate professor of political science and director of MIT GOV/LAB, and Agustin Rayo were selected to receive the Committed to Caring Award.
- Comparative Media Studies/Writing professor D. Fox Harrell's virtual reality project "The Enemy" won the 2017 Rose d'Or.
- Jing Wang, professor of Chinese media and cultural studies, was awarded the Overseas Distinguished Professorship by China's Ministry of Education.
- SHASS faculty swept the 2018 MacVicar Fellowship awards: David Autor (Economics), Christopher Capozzola (History), Shankar Raman (Literature), and Merritt Roe Smith (History and Science, Technology, and Society) all received the Institute's highest honor for undergraduate teaching.
- Economics professors Nancy Rose and Parag Pathak were elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.
- Rona Wang and Selam Gano won the 2018 De Courtivron Writing Prizes for writing on topics related to immigrant, the diaspora, biculturalism and bilingualism, and/or multi-racial experiences.
- Deborah Blum, director of the MIT Knight Science Journalism Program, received a reporting award from the Endocrine Society.
- Parag Pathak won the Clark Medal for best economist under 40.
- Economist Amy Finkelstein was elected to the American Academy of Sciences.
- Six SHASS teachers receive the 2018 Levitan Teaching Award: Eran Egozy, Elizabeth Wood, Olivia D' Ambrosio, Shariann Lewitt, Mariana San Martín, and Arda Gitmez.

- Six members of the SHASS staff received 2018 Infinite Mile Awards for 2018: Thomas Dattilo, Alicia Mackin, Nicole Paschal, Meghan Pepin, Kalina Schloneger, and Andrea Wirth.
- Historian Malick Ghachem and anthropologist Stefan Helmreich were selected as Radcliffe Institute Fellows.

Fundraising

New gifts and pledges for FY2018 totaled \$40,127,218. Highlights included several significant grants to the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), including a \$13 million grant from Arnold Ventures. The School also received a \$1.3 million grant from the Mellon Foundation to launch a new program in Digital Humanities. Additional gifts from individuals included a major gift of endowment for the MIT-MISTI Korea Program in the Center for International Studies, a seven-figure gift to J-PAL North America to support research on homelessness, several major gifts from individuals totaling \$1.6 million in new endowment support for fellowships in the Department of Economics, and a six-figure gift of expendable support for the Music and Theater Arts Section.

Faculty Promotions, Administrative Changes, and Retirements

In AY2018, three faculty members—Irene Heim (Linguistics and Philosophy), Shigeru Miyagawa (Global Studies and Languages), and Rosalind Williams (Science, Technology, and Science) retired. In addition to these retirements, Professors Isaiah Andrews and Hanna Shell left the Institute.

It was a successful year for faculty promotions. A total of 12 cases were brought forward for consideration. Of these, five faculty members were promoted to the rank of associate professor with tenure: Isaiah Andrews (Economics), Lerna Ekmekcioglu (History), Hiromu Nagahara (History), Alexander Wolitzky (Economics), and Teppei Yamamoto (Political Science). Four were promoted to associate professor without tenure: Justin Khoo (Linguistics and Philosophy), In Song Kim (Political Science), Paul Roquet (Global Studies and Languages), and Jack Spencer (Linguistics and Philosophy). Three were promoted to full professor: Taylor Fravel (Political Science), Bradford Skow (Linguistics and Philosophy), and Christopher Capozzola (History). These promotions are all effective July 1, 2018.

As a result of this year's faculty recruitment efforts, five candidates accepted faculty appointments in the School—three assistant professors and two full professors.

In 2017–2018, there were two leadership changes within the school. At the end of the year, Evan Ziporyn, section head of Music and Theater Arts, and David Pesetsky, department head of Linguistics and Philosophy, both stepped down from their positions.

Melissa Nobles

Kenan Sahin Dean

Professor of Political Science