

SCIENCE AND SOCIETY (MINOR)

Department Website (<https://www.nyu.edu/students/academic-services/undergraduate-advisement/unique-academic-opportunities/cross-school-minors/cross-school-minors-alphabetically/minor-in-science-and-society.html>)

Program Description

Science and society is a rich, inherently cross-disciplinary minor, drawing on the course offerings and faculty expertise of the College of Arts and Science, the Gallatin School of Individualized Study, the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, and the NYU Tandon School of Engineering. The minor analyzes how the techniques and methodologies of the humanities and social sciences can be used to illuminate both the context and content of science, technology, and medicine. Drawing upon history, philosophy, anthropology, and sociology, students investigate how culture and society frame—and, indeed, are themselves framed by—science, technology, and medicine.

The current influence of scientific, technological, and medical issues on our lives is unprecedented, altering our notions of race, health, responsibility, ownership, ethics, aesthetics, and self. We are therefore obliged to understand these critical interactions with a view to understand, and intervene in, the world. The types of questions this minor poses include: How has gene patenting affected both the content and conduct of molecular biology, as well as intellectual property law? What is the relationship between the mathematical descriptions that physicists employ and the nature of physical phenomena? What are the ethical and political issues involved in human embryonic stem cell research? How do machines shape aesthetics? What, if anything, is the difference between a machine and a human? How does nature have a history?

This minor serves as an enlightening complement to pre-health studies, pre-law studies relevant to intellectual property, biotechnology, and environmental and healthcare studies. It also provides a potent training to those interested in pursuing advanced degrees in the history, philosophy, sociology, or anthropology of science, technology, or medicine.

Minor Declaration

To request declaration of a minor, CAS students should visit the host department. To request declaration of a cross-school minor, CAS students should complete the online Minor Application available in their Albert Student Center. Students may also use the Minor Application (<http://www.nyu.edu/students/student-information-and-resources/registration-records-and-graduation/registration.html>) in Albert to request cancellation of a CAS or cross-school minor.

Program Requirements

The minor requires the completion of 16 credits with a grade of C or better (Pass/Fail does not count), comprised of the following:

Course	Title	Credits
Minor Requirements		
HIST-UA 66	Introduction to Science and Society	4
Select three approved courses ¹		
Course 1		4

Course 2	4
Course 3	4
Total Credits	16

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From list of courses provided on the minor website (<https://www.nyu.edu/students/academic-services/undergraduate-advisement/unique-academic-opportunities/cross-school-minors/cross-school-minors-alphabetically/minor-in-science-and-society.html>).

General Information

Many courses in the minor fall into one of the following four clusters: technology, physics, biology/pre-health, and environmental sciences. Students are strongly encouraged, however, to be creative and challenge themselves to think in ways other than those that are strictly categorical. For example, a student interested in understanding the difference between the natural and the artificial might take the following three elective courses in addition to the required Introduction to Science and Society course: Philosophy of Biology; Humans, Machines, and Aesthetics; and Nature and Technology in Modern America.

Students are strongly encouraged to take courses in the various NYU schools contributing to the minor. This will expose them to a plethora of diverse pedagogical experiences and greatly enhance co-learning. All CAS students may apply 16 credits taken in the other schools of NYU toward their degree. Students seeking to raise this limit so as to accommodate the course work of the minor in science and society must consult with the College of Arts and Science Advising Center, 726 Broadway, 7th floor; 212-998-8130. Note that, with the exception of the Graduate School of Arts and Science, courses taken in the other schools of NYU do not count toward the 64-credit residency requirement in CAS (-UA) courses for internal and external transfers to the College.

Policies

NYU Policies

University-wide policies can be found on the New York University Policy pages (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/nyu/policies/>).

College of Arts and Science Policies

A full list of relevant academic policies can be found on the CAS Academic Policies page (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/undergraduate/arts-science/academic-policies/>).