

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND SOCIETY/ SECOND MAJOR (STS)

Science, Technology, and Society Program (<https://catalog.mit.edu/schools/humanities-arts-social-sciences/science-technology-society/#undergraduatetext>)

Bachelor of Science in Science, Technology, and Society (Second Major)

The full major in Science, Technology, and Society (STS) may be pursued only as a second major in conjunction with another degree program in a field of engineering or science, or in other fields on a case-by-case basis.

General Institute Requirements (GIRs)

The General Institute Requirements include a Communication Requirement that is integrated into both the HASS Requirement and the requirements of each major; see details below.

Summary of Subject Requirements	Subjects
Science Requirement	6
Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (HASS) Requirement [between three and six subjects can be from the Departmental Program]; at least two of these subjects must be designated as communication-intensive (CI-H) to fulfill the Communication Requirement.	8
Restricted Electives in Science and Technology (REST) Requirement	2
Laboratory Requirement (12 units)	1
Total GIR Subjects Required for SB Degree	17

Physical Education Requirement

Swimming requirement, plus four physical education courses for eight points.

Departmental Program

Choose at least two subjects in the major that are designated as communication-intensive (CI-M) to fulfill the Communication Requirement.

Required Subjects	Units
Tier I	
STS.004 Intersections: Science, Technology, and the World (CI-M)	12
<i>Select one of the following:</i>	9-12
STS.001 Technology in American History	
STS.002 Finance and Society	
STS.003 Ancient Greeks to Modern Geeks: A History of Science	

STS.005[J] Data and Society	
STS.006[J] Bioethics	
STS.008 Technology and Experience	
STS.011 Engineering Life: Biotechnology and Society	
STS.012[J] Science in Action: Technologies and Controversies in Everyday Life ¹	
STS.014 Embodied Education: Past, Present, Future	

Tier II

Select one subject from the list of Tier II subjects ^{1, 2}	9-12
STS.THT Undergraduate Thesis Tutorial	6
STS.THU Undergraduate Thesis (CI-M)	12

Restricted Electives

Select a coherent group of four elective subjects in STS, plus four subjects related to the historical and social study of science and technology, in consultation with the STS undergraduate officer

Units in Major	138-150
Unrestricted Electives ³	66-78
Units in Major That Also Satisfy the GIRs	(36-72)
Total Units Beyond the GIRs Required for SB Degree	180

The units for any subject that counts as one of the 17 GIR subjects cannot also be counted as units required beyond the GIRs.

¹ Students who choose 9-unit subjects need to complete enough unrestricted electives to ensure that they have met the required 180 units beyond the GIRs.

² See list of Tier II subjects (<https://catalog.mit.edu/schools/humanities-arts-social-sciences/science-technology-society/#subjectstext>) in the Bulletin.

³ This chart has been calculated based on an overlap of 36 units (three subjects) between the HASS General Institute Requirement and the departmental requirements. Students who develop a program of study with more overlap will be able to select more unrestricted electives to meet the number of total units beyond the GIRs required for an SB degree.