History and Philosophy of Science, PhD

This program offers a unique opportunity to study the history and philosophy of science within ASU's School of Life Sciences. Students benefit from participating in the university's interdisciplinary culture and integrating coursework from the sciences into their education. Graduates choose careers in higher education, research and science communication.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: PHD History and Philosophy of Science

The history and philosophy of science is an interdisciplinary field that traces its origin to foundational works such as Thomas Kuhn's "Structure of Scientific Revolutions". The field is based on the idea that the best way to understand science is to study how it changes over time, along with careful analysis of its concepts and fundamental principles. The PhD program in the history and philosophy of science combines training in the core areas of history and philosophy of science with an emphasis on interdisciplinary studies of the sciences, including:

- computational history and philosophy of science
- foundations of evolutionary theory
- general philosophy of science and epistemology
- history and philosophy of applied ethics and science policy
- history of 19th and 20th century biology

The program is especially appropriate for students with an undergraduate or master's degree in philosophy history, or the sciences, and those who seek to broaden their disciplinary studies. Science students who have not taken relevant undergraduate humanistic core courses can make these up during their first years in the program. Graduates go on to careers in higher education, including research, teaching and administration; science communication; and other professions related to the life sciences.

At a Glance
Degree Requirements

84 credit hours, a written comprehensive exam, an oral comprehensive exam, a prospectus and a dissertation

Required Core (6 credit hours)
HPS 615 Biology and Society Lab (3)
HPS 620 Research Prospectus Writing (3)

Restricted Program Electives (30 credit hours)

Program Electives (24 credit hours)

Research (12 credit hours)
HPS 792 Research (12)

Dissertation (12 credit hours)
HPS 799 Dissertation (12)

Additional Curriculum Information
An individual student program is developed in consultation with the student's advisor and committee.

HPS 615 Biology and Society Lab is a one-credit hour course focused on student presentations of works-in-progress. Students must register for it three times during their graduate study.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree from a regionally accredited institution of recognized standing in a related field such as history, philosophy, or history and philosophy of science as well as a demonstrated background and interest in one or more sciences.

Applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of a student's first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.
Applicants must submit the following:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. academic record form
4. personal statement
5. curriculum vitae or resume
6. writing sample
7. GRE scores
8. three letters of recommendation
9. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information
An applicant whose native language is not English (regardless of current residency) must provide proof of English proficiency.

GRE scores of 50 percent verbal and 70 percent quantitative are desired.

Contact Information
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