

Proposed changes to the Major in HSHM Committee on Majors

Report on the Major in HSHM

Committee on Majors

April 20, 2012

In February of 2012, the Department of HSHM submitted a proposal to modify the current HSHM major. To evaluate the proposal, COM held two meetings, one with majors in the program, most of them (four out of five) members of the student advisory council organized by HSHM, and one with the DUS, Professor Paola Bertucci and HSHM Professor John Warner.

The issues that motivate the proposed revisions are: 1) long-term loss of students (calculated to be by 50% in the last five years); 2) disconnection between stated prerequisites and core curriculum; 3) need to orient students as to possible paths for chosen areas of concentration; and 4) dissatisfaction with the senior essay experience.

In turn, **the proposed reforms are** 1) the change of the name for the major to “History of Science, Medicine, and Public Health”, 2) The elimination of prerequisites, 3) Introduction of a one-semester senior essay project, in addition to the existing two-semester one; and 4) Introduction of curricular pathways.

The Committee on Majors recommends that the current major in HSHM be modified in line with the proposed reforms.

The Committee on Majors further recommends that, three years after the instantiation of the proposed curricular changes, the department presents an update regarding the expected benefits of the changes to whichever standing committee is deemed appropriate by the Dean of the College.