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## University Council

March 11, 2022

### UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2021-2022

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Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal from the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences to offer a new minor in the History of Science, Medicine, and Engineering will be an agenda item for the March 18, 2022, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

Susan Sanchez, Chair  
University Curriculum Committee

cc: Provost S. Jack Hu  
Dr. Marisa Pagnattaro

## **Proposal for a Minor Program of Study**

**School/College:** Franklin College of Arts and Sciences

**Department/Division:** History

**Minor Name:** History of Science, Medicine, and Engineering

**Proposed Effective Date:** Fall 2022

**Which campus(es) will offer this program:** Athens

**CIP:** 54010401

### **Program Description:**

The proposed Minor in the History of Science, Medicine, and Engineering aims to give undergraduates a solid foundation in the historical foundations of the so-called “STEM” disciplines that have attracted a growing number of majors in recent years. The impetus for this proposal originated with faculty members in these disciplines who contacted the History Department. Several expressed concern that students majoring in cutting-edge technical fields have insufficient opportunity to develop the kinds of skills associated with historical training: the ability to write effectively and clearly, the capacity to weigh contradictory evidence and draw logical conclusions, and other “critical thinking” skills.

Courses in the proposed minor will enable students to develop these essential competencies while simultaneously giving them a grounding in the history of their chosen fields: engineering, computer science, biology, public health, psychology, and other allied disciplines. For students in these fields, a Minor in the History of Science, Medicine, and Engineering may also give them an edge in the job market, enabling them to argue that their undergraduate training has given them not only specialized technical skills but also the general, transferable skills necessary for success in the contemporary labor market. Though designed with these students in mind, this minor will also accommodate the interests of any student interested in historical studies that have a more applied, technical focus.

Student learning outcomes for this program include: 1) Develop an awareness of the historical roots of technical, medical, and scientific fields; 2) Acquire an understanding of how these fields became professionalized and integrated into the larger economy; 3) Read and analyze historical documents in order to practice developing cogent, persuasive arguments in writing; and 4) Develop communication skills consistent with students’ academic and professional goals.

## **Program of Study and Requirements**

Students pursuing a Minor in the History of Science, Engineering, and Medicine must take fifteen hours of coursework from the following list. There is no geographical or topical focus; any five courses drawn from the following list will suffice, subject to the following rules.

- *No more than one of the five courses can be taken outside of the HIST prefix*
- *Courses taken to satisfy Core Areas I through V may not be counted toward the minor.*
- *Courses taken to satisfy Core Area VI may count for the minor.*
- *All courses used to satisfy the minor must be passed with a grade of “C” (2.0) or better.*
- *Upon approval, transfer students may count one non-UGA course toward the minor.*

<b>Department</b>	<b>Course #</b>	<b>Course Title</b>
ASTR	1660	History of Astronomy
ATSC(GEOG)	3135	Hidden Figures in the Atmospheric Sciences
HIST	3160	American Environmental History
HIST	3160H	American Environmental History (Honors)
HIST	3342	History of the Life Sciences*
HIST	3343	History of Psychiatry*
HIST	3421	History of Ancient and Medieval Science
HIST	3425	History of Engineering*
HIST	3430	History of Architecture*
HIST	3432	History of Modern Science
HIST	3432H	History of Modern Science (Honors)
HIST	3433	History of Medicine
HIST	3725	Environmental History of the Modern World
HIST	3727	History of Computing, the Internet, and AI*
HIST	3740	Disease and Human History
HIST	3742	Death: A Human History
HIST	3750	History of Science Fiction
HIST(GLOB)(LACS)	3770	Pandemic! Infectious Disease in Global History
HIST	4065/6065	History of American Medicine to 1865
HIST	4066/6066	History of American Medicine, 1865 to the Present
HIST	4067/6067	Technology in American Culture
HIST (CLAS)	4225/6225	Medicine, Healing, and the Body in Ancient Greece and Rome
HIST	4430/6430	History of Science and Religion in Western Society
HIST	4432/6432	Newton, Einstein, Bohr: History and Philosophical Lessons of Modern Physics
HIST	4435/6435	History of Russian Science from Eastern Exploration to Space Age
HIST	4440/6440	The Nuclear Age: Science, Bombs, and the World Order in the Twentieth Century
HIST	4445/6445	A Global History of Drugs
HIST	4445W	A Global History of Drugs
HIST	4620/6620	Worlds Apart? China in the Early Modern Economy <i>Name change in progress to The Chinese Industrial Revolution</i>
PSYC	4920	History of Psychology

\* Indicates courses currently being submitted to CAPA for approval.

**Justification:**

In recent years, students at the University of Georgia have gravitated in growing numbers to pre-professional majors, particularly those associated with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields. Nonetheless, informal polling undertaken by faculty in the School of Engineering indicates that there remains significant demand for traditional disciplines like History – but only if they complement and reinforce studies undertaken in the primary major. The conventional History Minor does not permit students to do this: it is defined by geography, not subject area. By contrast, this new minor field would be tailor-made to accommodate the needs and wishes of students pursuing studies in STEM fields, offering a range of upper-level courses designed to meet this demand.

## **Documentation of Approval and Notification**

**Proposal:** Minor in the History of Science, Medicine, and Engineering

**College:** Franklin College of Arts and Sciences

**Department:** History

**Proposed Effective Term:** Fall 2022

**Department:**

- History Department Head, Dr. Claudio Saunt, 3/1/22

**School/College:**

- Franklin College of Arts and Sciences Associate Dean, Dr. Jean Martin-Williams, 2/1/22

**Notification:**

- College of Engineering Associate Dean, Dr. Ramaraja Ramasamy, 3/1/22

## **Minor in History of Science, Medicine, and Engineering**

### **Feedback from the College of Engineering**

“The college of engineering supports the proposed minor in History of Science, Medicine and Engineering. We also recommend that the plan of study includes a set of ‘recommended courses to take’ depending on the student’s primary major and background. For example, a set of recommended courses for an engineering student would include HIST 3425, and for medicine student it may include HIST 3433 and so on.”