

Humanities, Social Sciences and the Arts



The program in humanities, social sciences and the arts is one of the distinctive and defining aspects of Harvey Mudd College. It is an essential part of an HMC education. The faculty members are active scholars and researchers, dedicated and creative teachers. They serve the entire student body; they are the college's second largest department; they constitute a major portion of the curriculum. But, more to the point, they're integral to the college's mission. The work students do in our program results in bold, broad-minded, self-aware, socially engaged citizens and scholars—evolving, reasoning, enlightened human beings. The college believes that this part of their education and the skills they develop, are the foundation of a meaningful life in the sciences.

From its inception, the college has regarded a strong grounding in these areas as an essential part of the education of scientists, mathematicians, and engineers, who need to be mindful of the richness and complexities of the human experience as well as the social contexts and consequences of their own endeavors.

In addition to a core course taken by all students (HSA 10, Critical Inquiry), students must complete ten full semester courses in a coherent program planned with the approval of their advisor. This number of courses constitutes over a quarter of the coursework the average HMC student completes; that percentage alone distinguishes the HMC curriculum from most other undergraduate programs in science and engineering.

The humanities, social sciences and the arts program must include courses in at least five different disciplines to satisfy the distribution requirement, in addition to a concentration of courses in a single discipline or with a common focus. To foster the growth of an intellectual community, students take at least five upper-division courses from departmental faculty members. Students may select their remaining HSA courses from a large number available at Harvey Mudd and the other Claremont Colleges.

Primary department needs include the following. Estimated costs listed are those in excess of the department's current operating budget for experiential learning (\$3,000 for FY 2011-2012).

- Studio for visual artist working in multiple media (e.g., sculpture and painting).
 - Equipment and renovation costs estimated at \$100,000.
 - Annual budget support for supplies estimated at \$8,000.
- Full budget support for "Food in American Culture" and "Building Los Angeles courses" (additional \$3000-5,000 per year)
- Budget support for choice lab on sleep deprivation (\$4700 per semester that the lab is offered)
- Upgraded software and equipment for media studies courses in video production (\$18,000 overall)
- Upgraded equipment and software computer music studio (approximately \$10,000 overall).

Other departmental needs include endowment support to restart the department's highly successful photography program (\$400,000-600,000 endowment gift)