What is STS?

Science, Technology, and Society (STS) is an internationally recognized field of interdisciplinary study that integrates social scientific and humanistic studies to better understand the natural and human-built world. The minor in STS offers students the opportunity to critically examine science, technology, and medicine as expressions of human cultures, past and present. Students learn to scrutinize the ideas, values, and materials embedded in the world they inhabit today and to relate them to other times and places. They explore how choices made within various social, economic, and political structures influence the development of science, technology, and medicine. They also see how the adoption and diffusion of ideas, artifacts and techniques can then influence individuals, society, politics, and culture. Courses in this minor draw students together from diverse majors across the campus and encourage open inquiry into the role of science and technology in society.

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The machine does not isolate man from the great problems of nature but plunges him more deeply into them.

— ANTOINE DE SAINT-EXUPERY

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Science, Technology, and Society

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The Minor in

Science

Technology

& Society
The minor program in STS is open to all undergraduate students at JMU. Courses taken to complete the STS minor can also be used to satisfy the student’s major, as well as General Education requirements.

The STS minor requires 18 credit hours with at least one course each from the history, sociology, and ISAT courses listed below:

### Required Courses, 3 units:

**One of the following three:**

- ISAT 131  Technology, Science, and Society
- SOCI 315  Science, Technology, and Society
- HIST 327  Technology in America

### Elective courses, 15 units:

From at least 4 different programs/majors (e.g. HIST, ISAT, GEOG, SOCI, ANTH):

- AN/AH/HIST 492  American Material Culture
- ANTH/SOCI 313  Processes of Social and Cultural Change
- ANTH 340  The Invention of Race
- ANTH 360  Medical Anthropology
- ANTH 373  Anthropological Perspectives on Environment and Development
- ARTH 303  History of Design
- ARTH 474  The New Media and Contemporary Art
- ARTH 476  Modern Architecture
- GEOG 322  Agricultural Systems
- GEOG 325  Environmental Ethics
- GEOG 344  Economic Geography and Development Issues
- HIST 305  History of Science and Christianity
- HIST 326  The Automobile in 20th Century America
- HIST 328  History of Science, 1543-1859
- HIST 329  History of Science Since 1859
- HIST 405  Travel and Exploration
- HIST 427  U.S. Environmental History
- HIST 443  Modern American Technology and Culture

- HIST 481  Early Modern Europe: The New Worlds of Exploration and Science
- ISAT 231  Political Economy of Technology and Science
- ISAT 311  Role of Energy in Modern Society
- ISAT 411  Energy Economics and Policy
- ISAT 421  Environmental Policy and Regulation
- ISAT 456  Ethical, Legal and Social Implications of Biotechnology
- ISAT 471  Transportation: Energy, Environment and Society
- ISAT 477  Complex Systems and How They Fail
- PHIL 300  Knowledge and Belief
- PHIL 395  Philosophy and Scientific Inquiry
- SOCI 311  Sociology of the Environment
- SOCI 316  Space, Time, and the Human Social Environment
- SOCI 366  Sociology of Knowledge
- SOCI 375  Medical Sociology
- WRTC 350  Science and Technology in Literature