Students who major in humanities and social sciences examine some of the most thought-provoking and intellectually challenging questions our society faces. In particular, they ask what it means to be a responsible and knowledgeable individual in this ever-changing, fast-paced, technology-driven world. They also investigate how human innovation and culture have changed and influenced our world throughout the course of history. The humanities and social science majors at Stevens tackle these questions and more, empowering students to write articulately, communicate effectively and think creatively, with an awareness of the ethical dimensions of human behavior.

What makes the study of the humanities and social sciences at Stevens distinctive is that our College of Arts and Letters offers all the virtues of traditional humanities while surrounded by cutting-edge technological innovation. Our majors build upon solid disciplinary foundations, moving on to sophisticated interdisciplinary themes, with an eye to addressing some of the most pressing challenges we face today. Along the way, students are nurtured and guided toward professional success.

The College of Arts and Letters at Stevens offers Bachelor of Arts degrees in four disciplines within the humanities and social sciences. We offer the curriculum and coursework of a traditional liberal arts school, but in a way that is deeply relevant by putting emphasis on issues related to science and technology. You will benefit from the personal attention each student receives from our award-winning faculty. What’s more, you will have access to all our services, most notably our career development office, which was recently ranked 13th in the nation by The Princeton Review. You will also enjoy the benefits of a bucolic campus in the vibrant city of Hoboken, just across the river from the exciting intellectual and cultural opportunities offered by New York City.

A BACKGROUND FOR SUCCESS

Originally drawn to Stevens for its small size and tight-knit community, Adam Elewa (B.A. ‘11) realized quickly the benefits of the humanities programs at Stevens. “For me, learning philosophy on top of computer science put it all into perspective,” Adam says. He switched his major from computer science to philosophy with a pre-law minor, and worked closely with his professors to reach his goal of attending law school. “If I’d gone a more traditional route right into Philosophy or Law, I would lack the science background I got at Stevens. Plus, not many other schools can offer the one-on-one attention from the faculty, not to mention the proximity to New York City.” Adam is now pursuing his law degree at Fordham University, focusing on Internet and IP law.

THE STEVENS ADVANTAGE: CLOSE-KNIT COMMUNITY

As a student at Stevens, you will become part of a community of motivated and engaged scholars. Your professors are accomplished researchers and thought leaders who will deliver lectures, assign readings, and foster discussions that are thought-provoking and push you to think critically. They are equally engaged outside of the classroom, accustomed to working closely with students to keep a high level of intellectual engagement, pursue opportunities for further study, secure internships or work on research projects.

The humanities experience at Stevens is designed to nurture students to realize their full potential, by offering them small classes with the flexibility of tailoring seminars to meet their specific interests or passions. Such examples in the past have included developing seminars on the Philosophy of Quantum Theory, The Role of Technology in Film, and even the History of Aeronautics—in each case, at the request of the students.

“While we recognize the value of technical know-how and expertise, we realize that these skills can only bring one so far. It is our conviction that a complete education requires the ability to think for oneself, to appreciate and understand the viewpoints of others, and, above all, to recognize the open-endedness of the educative process.”

– Lisa Dolling, Dean of the College of Arts and Letters
THE HISTORY MAJOR
When you study history at Stevens, you embark upon much more than a study of the past: our faculty believes that a critical understanding of the past better prepares us to face the challenges of the present and shape the road to the future. Historians at Stevens have special expertise in the history of science and technology, and investigate how innovations have developed over time, shaping our contemporary society. As a Stevens history student, you will develop critical, analytical research skills, and have opportunities to participate in activities as part of a working team, which taken together are essential foundations for future professional success.

THE LITERATURE MAJOR
The literature curriculum at Stevens examines genres, movements, literary periods, and major authors from around the world. We believe that embodied in these great narrative works are keys to unlocking the complexities of human nature and culture. True to Stevens’ mission, readings often focus on the effects that science and technology have on the stories we tell. Because we are so close to New York City, a number of our courses are able to make use of the many cultural offerings that enrich your studies. What’s more, the Stevens environment will empower you to think and write critically, giving you the skills and confidence to succeed, regardless of the path you choose.

THE PHILOSOPHY MAJOR
The study of Philosophy at Stevens includes exposure to all traditional philosophical thought, from the Greeks to the contemporaries, and from theories about knowledge and science to moral philosophy and applied ethics. Because we are at Stevens, you have the opportunity to look closely at the ways scientific and technological advances have shaped our understanding of who we are and how we behave. Philosophy classes at Stevens offer inspiring reflection and analysis of real-world scenarios that teach students to think clearly and deeply about those problems facing the world today. These skills provide the foundation you will need to succeed in whatever profession you choose.

THE SOCIAL SCIENCES MAJOR
The social sciences are a group of related disciplines that uses scientific methods to study human behavior. When you study social sciences at Stevens, you will be exposed to courses in psychology, sociology, and political science in order to examine the behaviors of individuals, groups and cultural and political institutions. Our curriculum allows students to explore the breadth of the social sciences while concentrating in one field. This interdisciplinary focus allows students to study the political, sociological and psychological impact of technology, engineering and science upon society.

SAMPLE COURSES IN THE HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES:
- The Brain and Human Cognition
- Sociology of Science and Technology
- Social Choice Theory
- Public Policy Analysis
- Cities and the Global Economy
- Language, Meaning, and Reality
- Realist and Modern American Literature
- Ethical Issues in Science and Technology
- Philosophy of Science
- Environmental Ethics
- Technology in American Society

OUTCOMES
Supported by Stevens’ Office of Career Development, students in the Humanities and Social Sciences program at Stevens have been successful in transitioning their skills and knowledge to careers and further study at graduate and professional schools. Recent successes include placement in graduate or professional programs at Tufts University, Vanderbilt University, Fordham Law School and Seton Hall Law School, to name a few. Professional careers range from law and academia to occupational therapy and physiology.

THE FRESHMAN EXPERIENCE
The Freshman Experience is a sequence of two courses taken by every Stevens freshman: “Writing and Communications Colloquium” and “Knowledge, Nature, Culture.” Together these courses provide you with the foundation you need to become reflective, articulate, intellectually confident, creative, and truly innovative. Most important, it gives you a common experience shared by all your fellow freshmen, providing a platform for intellectual discussion outside the classroom and building a sense of solidarity and community.