Chapter 4. M.A. Degree for Students Entering With an Advanced Health Professional Degree

An M.A. degree with a specialization in History of Medicine is awarded through the History of Science Department at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. This program is designed for students with doctoral training in one of the health professions who wish to pursue a Master's degree in the history of medicine.

Requirements: A minimum of 30 course credits are required for the M.A. degree, of which at least 21 must be in the History of Science, Medicine, and Technology (HSMT) graduate program. A grade of B or better must be received in all courses used to satisfy these requirements. Only courses in History of Science or Medical History numbered 700 or above, or numbered 300-699 in which graduate students are always assessed separately from undergraduate students, may count toward the 21-credit requirement. The distribution should be along the following lines:

Required Courses:

- 504 Society and Health Care in American History
- 507 and 508 Health, Disease, and Healing I and II (4-credit option, if available)
- 720 Proseminar: Historiography and Methods
- 901 Graduate Seminar in the History of Medicine

Additional Requirements:

- One additional history of medicine course
- One additional history of science course at the 300-600 level or above
- One additional seminar in the history of medicine, history of science, or history
- One approved elective

Transfer credits

Students can apply up to 6 credits from previous professional advanced degree work in one of the health professions from other institutions as well as UW–Madison toward the M.A. degree. If only 3 credits are transferred, these will count as 1 course towards the M.A. requirements. No credits earned more than 5 years before admission to the M.A. program may be used.

History of Science Department Requirements

There is no foreign language requirement for the M.A. degree for students entering with an advanced health professional degree. However, graduate students must demonstrate proficiency in either French or German (or an approved alternative) in order to be admitted to the Ph.D. program. The Ph.D. in History of Science, Medicine, and Technology requires proficiency in two foreign languages. Those students intending to pursue a Ph.D. degree should anticipate these requirements. (See Ph.D. language requirements below for methods by which proficiency may be demonstrated.)

M. A. Paper. Same as for M.A. degree in History of Science, Medicine, and Technology.

M.A. Advising. The DGS will ordinarily serve as advisor for first-year students. Students are expected to choose an M.A. advisor no later than registration week of their third semester in the
Program (completion of form A is required). The M.A. advisor will assist students in planning their academic program and preparing an M.A. paper. Students may change advisors at any time by filling out Form A in this handbook and filing it with the DGS.

**M.A. Checklist.** Students wishing to be awarded the M.A. degree will submit an M.A. Checklist along with the M.A. paper. The checklist appears in Form B below.