

STSS Graduate Certificate – Information for Students

Welcome to the STSS Graduate Certificate program! This certificate was approved by the Graduate School and the UW Board of Regents in Spring 2014 and admitted its first cohort of students in Fall 2015. A description of the program is available online: <http://depts.washington.edu/stsst/>

When you're admitted to the STSS Certificate program, the STSS steering committee will assign you an STSS advisor. You should ensure that you meet your STSS advisor as soon as you can after you receive notice that you've been admitted to the Certificate; their primary role is to help you navigate the program and to oversee development of your capstone STSS portfolio. Here's what's involved:

- **Advising on course selection:** the Certificate requires just two core courses: STSS 591 "STSS in Action" and STSS 602, the "Capstone Portfolio" independent study, both two-credit C/NC courses. The remaining 14 credits of the 18 required for the Certificate must be chosen to meet distribution requirements in three areas, with a minimum of 4 credits in each area. We have provided a list of courses that meet the "Broad Perspectives Seminar" requirement, but you will be selecting the courses that meet the two other distribution requirements in consultation with your advisor: the "Interdisciplinary Breadth Seminar" and a "Topic or Discipline-specific Elective." Your choice of courses in these latter two areas require the approval of your advisor to count toward the Certificate.
- **Advising meetings:** we recommend that you meet with your STSS advisor on the following schedule:
 - On admission to the program: to review your initial statement of interest, undertake a review of any courses already completed that may count for STSS credit, and develop a plan for meeting the certificate requirements;
 - Each Spring quarter: to review the STSS requirements you have completed in the previous year using the "STSS requirements form" as an annual report on your progress through the program (see below);
 - In the quarter when you are enrolled in STSS 602: you should meet regularly with your advisor while developing your portfolio project. (See below for a description of what the portfolio project and presentation involves.)
- **Record of requirements:** you are required to maintain a record of your STSS activities using the "STSS requirements form" and submit this form to your STSS advisor for review in the Spring quarter of each year.
 - Annual review: your STSS advisor is responsible for reviewing this form with you, and for submitting it to the STSS Steering Committee at the end of the Spring quarter each year.
 - Completing the certificate: when your advisor confirms that you have met all the STSS Certificate requirements they will forward a final "STSS requirements form" to the Steering Committee for review. The Steering Committee will check the details and, if they concur, they will request that the STSS Graduate Advisor undertake a formal audit of your Certificate requirements. If all is in order, the Graduate Advisor will then submit a request to the Graduate School to award you the STSS Certificate. NOTE: the request that you be awarded the Certificate must be forwarded to the Graduate School while you are still enrolled in your primary degree program.

II. STSS Certificate Requirements

This is an overview and more detailed explanation of the STSS program requirements listed on the “STSS Requirements Form” and available online: <https://depts.washington.edu/stsst/program-curriculum/>.

STSS Certificate requirements: an overview

The STSS Certificate requires a minimum of **18 credits**:

- **Graded courses:** 4 credits in C/NC courses and 14 credits in graded courses (note that the 2 required 2-credit STSS core courses are C/NC, so all other credits must be in graded courses);
- **500-level courses:** at least 14 of these required 18 credits must be at the 500-level or above;
- **Cross-counted credits:** the Graduate School no longer has any restrictions on credit sharing between a graduate certificate and a graduate degree program;
- **Grade and GPA thresholds:** a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 in courses required for the Certificate and a grade of 2.7 or higher in each course counted toward the Certificate.

Distribution requirements:

- **2 STSS core courses:** STSS 591, “STSS in Action”; and STSS 602, “Capstone Portfolio” (independent research) = 4 credits, C/NC, 500-600 level
- **2 or more breadth seminars:** a minimum of 4 credits chosen from among the courses listed as options for a “Broad Perspectives” seminar, and a minimum of 4 credits in an “Interdisciplinary Breadth” seminar = a minimum of 8 credits, graded, 400 or 500 level
- **Topic or discipline-specific elective(s):** chosen to complement your research interests = a minimum of 4 credits, graded, 400 or 500 level

STSS Certificate requirements: the details

Core course I: STSS 591, “STSS in Action” (2 credits, C/NC)

- offered each Autumn quarter; open to all interested students (you need not have been admitted to the Certificate to take this course, or for it to count toward the Certificate if you are admitted to the program after you have taken it);
- required to complete the certificate but not for admission to the certificate.

Broad perspectives seminar: 1 seminar from the following list (a minimum of 4 credits; graded; 400 or 500 level)

- to be chosen in consultation with your STSS advisor;
- intended to broaden your horizons so the course(s) you choose may not be in your home discipline:
 - ANTH 473, Anthropology of Science and Technology
 - COM 540, Rhetoric of Science
 - COM 539, Theories of Technology & Society
 - PHIL 560, Seminar in the Philosophy of Science.

If you and your advisor identify a course that fits the profile for a “Broad perspectives seminar” but is not currently on this list of options, we encourage you to bring a proposal to the STSS Steering Committee that it be added. To count as meeting this requirement the proposed course will have to be approved by a vote of the Interdisciplinary Group.

Interdisciplinary breadth seminar: 1 or more seminars outside your home discipline (a minimum of 4 credits; graded; 400 or 500 level)

- to be chosen in consultation with your STSS advisor;
- you should identify options that complement your research interests; a list of examples is available online: <https://depts.washington.edu/stsst/courses/>.
- **your advisor must approve your choice of a “breadth” seminar for STSS Certificate credit.**

Topic or discipline-specific elective: 1 or more seminars in your discipline and/or on the topic of your dissertation research (a minimum of 4 credits; graded; 400 or 500 level)

- to be chosen in consultation with your STSS advisor;
- the primary criterion for choosing this course is that it be relevant to your dissertation research;
- **your advisor must approve your choice of an elective for STSS Certificate credit.**

Core course II: STSS 602, “STSS Capstone Portfolio” (2 credits, C/NC)

- independent research, **supervised by your STSS advisor**, in which you will develop your **STSS Certificate Portfolio** for presentation to the STSS community.

STSS Certificate Portfolio requirement

To complete the Certificate you must compile a portfolio that documents your STSS interests as these have evolved through the Certificate program. The portfolio may take any number of forms but has **three components**:

Narrative: a reflective account that takes your initial Certificate application statement of interest in STSS as its point of departure and describes how this core interest has been addressed and/or reframed in the process of completing requirements for the Certificate.

Documentation: selected products or other documentation of your research and teaching activities as these relate to the certificate’s learning objectives, demonstrating how these relate to your own professional goals. This should reflect, among other things:

- flyers from or notes taken during participation in colloquia sponsored by any of the working groups on campus engaged in STSS-related research, for example: the Science Studies Network, the History of Science and the Philosophy of Science discussion groups;
- syllabi of relevant coursework, including courses that you are counting for STSS certificate credit;
- professional activities, including syllabi from STSS-related teaching, workshops or colloquia (as organizer or presenter), conference papers, and publications.

Public presentation: you must present your completed portfolio to the STSS Certificate community, typically at the end of the Autumn quarter in your final year at UW (see below).

Portfolio logistics and timetable:

Initiation: you should begin to develop your portfolio in the first Autumn quarter after you are admitted to the certificate program, typically in the “STSS in Action” core course.

Continuous development: the portfolio should be treated as an ongoing project that you compile as you take STSS courses and develop your dissertation research program;

STSS 602 “Capstone Portfolio”: you should enroll for independent research credits under the supervision of your advisor (i.e., using your STSS advisor’s faculty add code) at the point when you are ready to finalize your STSS Portfolio, typically in the Spring quarter before your final year at UW. To receive credit for “STSS Independent Research” you must:

- make satisfactory progress toward finalizing your STSS Portfolio;
- if feasible, meet with the other STSS students preparing their portfolios and their advisors to consult as a group about plans and expectations for STSS portfolios;
- schedule a presentation of your portfolio, typically in the following Autumn quarter, at the beginning of your final year at UW.

Portfolio presentation: to meet the STSS capstone/portfolio requirement, you must present your completed portfolio to the STSS Faculty Network and other STSS Certificate students, typically in the Autumn quarter of your final year at UW. The rationale for this timing is to provide you an opportunity to develop a polished presentation of their STSS interests as you enter the post-graduate job market.