Rensselaer nurtures a “low walls” research culture that facilitates strong interactions among faculty and students from all schools, departments, centers, and laboratories. Our researchers freely share expertise and equipment, methods and media, and, most importantly, ideas.

The School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences offers the following degrees: Cognitive Science (Ph.D.); Communication and Rhetoric (M.S., Ph.D.); Ecological Economics (Ph.D.); Ecological Economics and Policy (M.S.); Electronic Arts (M.F.A, Ph.D.); Human-Computer Interaction (M.S.); Science and Technology Studies (M.S., Ph.D.); and Technical Communication (M.S.). Certificate programs in Human-Computer Interaction and Technical Communication are also offered.

**Cognitive Science, Ph.D.**
The doctoral program in Cognitive Science was created by a core of cognitive science-oriented psychologists, philosophers, and computer scientists. This is a truly unique interdisciplinary program that trains students to integrate theories, methods, and tools from a variety of fields. Students work closely with individual faculty, whose research interests include computational cognitive modeling, human and machine reasoning, perception and action, computational linguistics, multi-agent systems, and social simulation. There is a strong emphasis on building models of integrated cognitive systems using formal, quantitative, and mathematical tools. The department has excellent research facilities, such as eye tracking equipment, a robotic arm, and a large-scale immersive virtual environment lab. Students will also find excellent opportunities in cognitive engineering, the application of cognitive science theories to human factors practice.

Betty Osganian
Admissions Coordinator
(518) 276-6473
cogsci-l@lists.rpi.edu
www.cogsci.rpi.edu

**Communication and Rhetoric M.S., Ph.D.**
The M.S. and Ph.D. programs in Communication and Rhetoric focus on communication in technologically mediated contexts. These programs emphasize communication studies, rhetoric, new media, technical communication, composition, human-computer interaction, game studies, and graphic design. The resources of a premier technological university are combined with a faculty grounded in research and practice in communication, rhetoric, and new media. For more than 40 years, Rensselaer graduates have been on the leading edge in the study of the relationship between communication and technology. Programs in Communication and Rhetoric can provide the foundation for an academic career or work in industry.

Pat Marra
Admissions Coordinator
(518) 276-6468
marrap@rpi.edu
www.cm.rpi.edu
Ecological Economics, Ph.D.
This pioneering graduate program in ecological economics, offered by the economics department, combines a traditional training in advanced economics, expected of the Ph.D.s in economics, with the broader interdisciplinary perspective on economic, social, and environmental systems provided by ecological economics. Ecological economics is the multidisciplinary field that integrates diverse perspectives on human resource use, development, and the environment. In addition to traditional economic policy concerns regarding efficiency and equity, ecological economics focuses on sustainability. Faculty research interests include sustainable economic development, behavioral economics, corporate social responsibility, global climate change, lifestyle change and household consumption, life-cycle analysis, measuring well being and happiness, production theory, technological change, innovation, and technology transfer. The department has a strong empirical focus based on techniques including econometrics, input-output analysis, time series analysis, and cost-benefit analysis.

Betty Jean Kaufman
Admissions Coordinator
(518) 276-6387
kaufmb@rpi.edu
www.economics.rpi.edu

Ecological Economics, Values, and Policy, M.S.
Jointly offered by Science and Technology Studies and Economics, this unique program focuses on the relationships among political economies, environmental problems, science and values, and development of sustainability policies. It is aimed at students dedicated to building sustainable societies. Students work on real problems, develop innovative solutions, and implement them.

Anne Borrero
Admissions Coordinator
borrea2@rpi.edu
(518) 276-6413
www.sts.rpi.edu/pl/ms-eevp

Electronic Arts, MFA, Ph.D.
The Arts Department offers two graduate programs exploring an integrated, multidisciplinary approach to experimental arts practice with a focus on the uses and cultural implications of contemporary technologies. The MFA in interdisciplinary electronic arts stresses the development of a student’s individual art practice and professional career. Study includes creative work in areas such as computer music, video art, performance, games, multimedia installation, tactical media, interactivity, and computer imaging and animation.

The interdisciplinary Ph.D. integrates arts practice with theoretical and historical investigations, emphasizing the exploration of new domains of creativity that necessitate advanced research in a variety of fields, including communication, technologies, biology, and gaming. Applicants must hold a master’s degree prior to entrance into the Ph.D. program.

The work of the department’s distinguished faculty and alumni is represented internationally in museums, galleries, festivals, publications, and performances.

Jennifer Mumby
Admissions Coordinator
(518) 276-4784
electronicarts@rpi.edu
www.arts.rpi.edu

Human-Computer Interaction, M.S.
The Rensselaer M.S. degree in HCI is centered on understanding human interaction with technological systems and human-to-human communication via technology. Our approach to human-computer interaction differs from other HCI programs by being centered in communication rather than computer science. The degree provides in-depth study of the fundamental principles of human/technology interaction; mastery of techniques for evaluation of interfaces and performance support systems, and of system usability; and design and implementation of human/technology interfaces and systems. The M.S. in HCI program combines course work in human communication theory and HCI theory with work in allied areas in which Rensselaer excels, such as technical communication, human factors, cognitive science, and computer science. The M.S. in HCI graduate will be uniquely qualified to be a leader in understanding the human in human-computer interaction and putting this knowledge to use in designing, evaluating, and implementing the technologies of tomorrow.

Pat Marra
Admissions Coordinator
(518) 276-6468
marrap@rpi.edu
www.cm.rpi.edu

Science and Technology Studies, M.S., Ph.D.
One of the first universities to offer both graduate and undergraduate degrees in STS, Rensselaer now has sixteen tenured and tenure-track faculty members. Consult the department’s web site for summaries of faculty interests ranging from high theory to everyday technological practice.

Most faculty and student research aims to clarify humanity’s technosocial problems and prospects. We welcome a diversity of methods, from ethnographic fieldwork and participant observation to historical archival research, structured interviews, deductive logic, computer simulation, and just plain sensible essays on important topics.

Current graduate students’ dissertations include safe sanitation for the urban poor, computer gaming and other emerging technologies, postcolonial technoscience, sustainable rural development, science ethics, democratic science policy, technological impacts on communication and knowledge production, technoscience-enabled migrations, weaponry, and biomedicine.

Anne Borrero
Admissions Coordinator
(518) 276-6413
borrea2@rpi.edu
www.sts.rpi.edu

Technical Communication, M.S.
Program emphases include human-computer interaction, usability, technical writing, and integrating textual and graphic information for electronic media.

Pat Marra
Admissions Coordinator
(518) 276-6468
marrap@rpi.edu
www.cm.rpi.edu