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.); Electronic Arts (MFA, 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.

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.

www.cm.rpi.edu
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.

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.

www.cm.rpi.edu

Science and Technology Studies, Ph.D.
Science and Technology Studies (STS) is a multidisciplinary social science and humanities field devoted to critical inquiry about the mutual shaping of science, technology, and society. The STS Department at Rensselaer is globally renowned for research on the cultural, historical, economic, political, and social dimensions of scientific and technological society. Graduates of the Ph.D. program typically go on to be researchers, professors, planners, and advisers in academic, government, and private institutions.

Rensselaer is a great place to do critical, socially engaged STS research. Theoretical and methodological diversity are encouraged. Currently, graduate students and faculty are working on topics as varied as wireless Internet access in low-income communities, drug overdose treatments, obesity research, the open source software movement, biotechnology governance, the privatization of space exploration, STEM education though gardening, the asthma epidemic, citizen environmental monitoring, cameras on police officers, and energy consumption interventions.

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.

www.cm.rpi.edu

For general inquiries, information, or admission questions, contact Jennifer Mumby at (518) 276-4784, or at mumbyj@rpi.edu