The Science Conversation brings together students and faculty with a broad range of academic interests for a critical exploration of science within its historical, cultural, and social contexts. The program encourages a philosophically and theologically informed appreciation for the development of science, the relationship between reason and faith, questions of meaning and purpose, and the complex interplay of science and society. It is designed to illuminate the distinctive character of science and its relevance to the challenges facing our world.

This yearlong program for a cohort of 24 sophomores consists of three courses (fall semester, Interim, and spring semester) and follows a "great books" approach with seminar-style discussions. Primary texts by influential figures are read alongside secondary sources for analysis and overview. During the Interim, students and faculty make science come alive by performing hands-on laboratory experiments while considering their intellectual and historical significance. In a broader sense, the Science Conversation seeks to help reunite the sciences and humanities, viewing the scientific enterprise in the context of the liberal arts.

Admission to the Program

All rising sophomores are invited to apply for admission to the Science Conversation, regardless of major or intended major. The program strives for the broadest possible mix of backgrounds and interests. Faculty members from the Science Conversation steering committee read and evaluate the applications. Admission to the program is based on the quality of the application essays and on the applicant's potential to benefit from and contribute to:

- a seminar-style, discussion-based learning environment;
- a primary texts approach;
- an interdisciplinary perspective.

Applications are typically due in early March for the following academic year. See the program's web page (http://wp.stolaf.edu/science-conversation).

Course Equivalents for General Education Requirements

Students who complete SCICN 213, SCICN 215, and SCICN 217 fulfill the following general education requirements:

- History of Western Culture [HWC] (one course)
- Biblical and Theological Studies - Theology [BTS-T] (one course)
- Human Behavior and Society [HBS] (one course)
- Scientific Exploration and Discovery OR Integrated Scientific Topics [SED or IST] (one course)
- Writing [WRI] (one course)