

AMERICAN STUDIES, MA

The Master of Arts program in American Studies is designed to enable students to examine American culture from a broad, interdisciplinary perspective, combining basic cultural studies with advanced professional training. Drawing on the graduate resources of the University at large, students develop individually tailored programs of coursework that reflect their own interests.

Our graduates have used the MA in American Studies as preparation for positions in journalism, public relations, library service, historical preservation, community organizing, private foundation work, law, and education, among other fields.

Admission Requirements

A student interested in pursuing a master's degree in American Studies must first apply for admission to the Graduate School and satisfy the school's minimum requirements as stated in this catalog. Each applicant should submit an acceptable score on either the general test of the Graduate Record Examination or the Miller Analogies Test in support of his or her application.

The dean of the Graduate School will then forward the student's records and application to the Department of American Studies for evaluation. Although a basic undergraduate background in American culture (literature, history, and political thought) is preferable, it is not a prerequisite for admission to the program. Students given conditional admission to American Studies must earn a 3.0 in their first semester of coursework or they will be dropped from the MA program.

General Degree Requirements

Students should refer to the Graduate Handbook of the Department of American Studies for additional information.

Candidates for the master's degree must earn a minimum of 30 semester hours of coursework credit and pass the comprehensive examination or complete a culminating or "capstone experience" as described under the Comprehensive Examinations section below.

Code and Title	Hours
Required Courses	
AMS 592 American Topic Seminar	6
AMS 585 American Experience to 1865	3
AMS 595 Ams Colloquium: Res & Methods	3
AMS 596 Ams Colloquium: Scholarly Writ	3
Elective Courses	15
Electives selected with Advisor Approval	
AMS 500 Internship	
AMS 505 Directed Study	
AMS 506 Directed Study	
AMS 507 Landscapes of the South	
AMS 509 Memory, Identity and Politics	
AMS 512 On The Road	
AMS 516 American Environmental Thought	
AMS 521 Writer & Artist in America	
AMS 522 Popular Culture in America	
AMS 523 The Roots of American Music	
AMS 529 American between the Wars	

AMS 530	Special Topics
AMS 531	Studies In Pop Culture
AMS 532	Studies In The Arts
AMS 536	Studies Social Experience
AMS 539	Urban Spaces
AMS 545	The "Good War"
AMS 565	Fictions of American Identity
AMS 570	Natives and Newcomers: Cross-Cultural Encounters in Early America
AMS 589	Approaches Teaching Ams
Comprehensive Exam	

Total Hours **30**

A student may take up to 9 hours outside the department, choosing a single disciplinary or cognate area (literature, history, broadcast and film, women's studies, journalism, the South, etc.) or two minor areas. Most students, however, choose a focus within American Studies.

Comprehensive Examinations

Each candidate for the master of arts degree in American Studies will write a comprehensive examination designed to reflect the individual's program. The comprehensive examination is intended as an integrating, synthesizing experience that enables the student to draw together the various component areas of his or her course of study. The results of the examination should attest to the student's acquisition of an interdisciplinary perspective, as well as an understanding of American culture as a whole. See the American Studies Graduate Handbook for details on the comprehensive examinations.