

American Studies

3331 Tawes Hall
 (301) 405-1354

<http://amst.umd.edu/programs/undergraduate/>

Key Features of an American Studies Major

- This interdisciplinary field of culture studies encompasses topics and research methods in literature and language, history and art history, media studies, and the social sciences, such as anthropology and sociology.
- American Studies seeks especially to understand the beliefs and values in and through which Americans make sense of themselves and their worlds.
- Study within a nationally-ranked department, known for its strong academic reputation and small, friendly atmosphere.
- This program aims to help students develop knowledge that is comparative, historical, and critical--and informed by a high degree of personal awareness.
- This writing-intensive liberal arts major will prepare you for a variety of career paths.

Career Options and Salaries with an American Studies Major

Because of its interdisciplinary nature, American Studies provides a variety of career opportunities. Many students go on to graduate or professional school, pursuing studies in history, art history, anthropology, geography, law, museums and archives, broadcasting, education, and social work. Those entering the job market directly after completing the bachelor's degree also pursue a wide array of careers, including jobs in print and broadcast media, public relations, government, corporations, museums, and archives. Salaries for American Studies majors vary as widely as their career possibilities:

Archivists	\$46,710*
Museum Curators	\$46,710
Historians	\$55,800
Print Journalists	\$37,090
Broadcast Journalists	\$37,720
Social Workers	\$45,900
Anthropologists	\$61,220

*All salaries listed are **median** salaries.

**Salary information taken from *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2014-2015 ed.* (<http://stats.bls.gov/oco/>)

Additional information on salaries and careers can be found through the University Career Center & The President's Promise: [American Studies](#).

Advising

If you are considering a major in American Studies, you can easily meet with the advisor in the American Studies Department to answer any questions you may have.

- Director of Undergraduate Studies: Dr. Jo B. Paoletti
- Main Office Phone: (301) 405-1354
- 3331 Tawes Hall

Declaring an American Studies Major

American Studies is not a Limited Enrollment Program. If you have decided to major in this field, you can declare immediately!

- Before declaring an American Studies major, you should familiarize yourself with the requirements and the focus areas within the major. You may do this by browsing the departmental website (<http://amst.umd.edu/programs/undergraduate/>) or by picking up handouts in 1328 Tawes Hall. Once you have decided that an American Studies major is right for you, take the following steps:
 - 1) Meet with the Undergraduate Director. You may set up an appointment by calling the number listed above. During this meeting, you will create a 4-Year Plan and an American Studies Advising Worksheet.
 - 2) Students must complete the ARHU [Foreign Language Placement Test](#) (FLPT must be taken in a proctored environment if students are seeking exemption from [The Global Engagement Requirement](#)). Please note that students' majors will not be changed until they have an FLPT score on file or have satisfied prerequisites via AP credit or earned college credit.
 - 3) You will then submit a "College of Arts & Humanities Change of Major Form." This is presented to the ARHU Office of Student Affairs, along with your signed 4-Year Plan, in 1102 Francis Scott Key Hall (301-405-2108). You will either meet with an advisor then or make an appointment for a later meeting. **Enrollment in the major is not complete until an ARHU advisor has signed the Four-Year Plan worksheet.**
 - 4) As a new major, you will then be assigned to a permanent department advisor, with whom you will need to meet at least once per semester prior to registration. Advisor assignments are posted outside the American Studies office and online.

Four-Year Plan (GEN ED)

First Year:

ENGL 101 (AW)	3
Math (MA)	4
HS	3
ARHU 158	1
<u>AMST 101 (HU & UP)</u>	<u>3</u>
	14 credits

NS	3
AR	3
Elective 1xx-4xx	3
Elective 1xx-4xx	3
<u>Americanist list 1xx-2xx</u>	<u>3</u>
	15 credits

Second Year:

OC	3
HU	3
Elective 1xx-4xx	3
Global Engagement #1	3
<u>AMST 2xx</u>	<u>3</u>
	15 credits

SP #1 (non-major)	3
Elective 1xx-4xx	3
Elective 1xx-4xx	3
Global Engagement #2	3
<u>Americanist list 1xx-2xx</u>	<u>3</u>
	15 credits

Third Year:

NL	4
Elective 1xx-4xx	3
Elective 1xx-4xx	3
AMST 3xx-4xx	3
<u>Supporting Area #1</u>	<u>3</u>
	16 credits

HS	3
Professional Writing	3
Elective 1xx-4xx	3
Supporting Area #2	3
<u>AMST 3xx-4xx</u>	<u>3</u>
	15 credits

Fourth Year:

Elective (3xx-4xx)	3
Elective (3xx-4xx)	3
AMST 3xx-4xx	3
Supporting Area #3	3
<u>AMST 340</u>	<u>3</u>
	15 credits

Elective (3xx-4xx)	3
Elective (3xx-4xx)	3
AMST 3xx-4xx	3
Supporting Area #4	3
<u>AMST 450 (SP #2)</u>	<u>3</u>
	15 credits

TOTAL = 120 credits

Four-Year Plan (CORE)

First Year:

ENGL 101	3	LL/PL	4
FM/MS	3-4	HL	3
Language Req. (#1)	3-6	SH or SB	3
UNIV 100 or 101	1	Language Req. (#2)	3
<u>AMST 201 (HO)</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>Americanist course (from list)</u>	<u>3</u>
	13-17 credits		16 credits

Second Year:

LS/PS/MS	3	LS/PS	3
SH or Second SB	3	SH or Second SB	3
Language Req. (#3)	3	HA	3
AMST 2xx	3	Supporting Area (3xx-4xx)	3
<u>Americanist course (from list)</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>AMST 3xx-4xx</u>	<u>3</u>
	15 credits		15 credits

Third Year:

ENGL 39x	3	Advanced Studies #1	3
Diversity CORE/Elective	3	Elective (1xx-4xx)	3
Elective (3xx-4xx)	3	Elective (1xx-4xx)	3
AMST 340	3	AMST 3xx-4xx	3
<u>Supporting Area (3xx-4xx)</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>Supporting Area (3xx-4xx)</u>	<u>3</u>
	15 credits		15 credits

Fourth Year:

Elective (1xx-4xx)	3	Elective (1xx-4xx)	3
Elective (3xx-4xx)	3	Elective (3xx-4xx)	3
AMST 3xx-4xx	3	Elective (3xx-4xx)	3
AMST 3xx-4xx	3	AMST 450 (Adv. Stud. #2)	3
<u>Supporting Area (3xx-4xx)</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>AMST 3xx-4xx</u>	<u>3</u>
	15 credits		15 credits

TOTAL = 120 credits

Q & A

Can I minor in American Studies?

At this time, there is not a minor in American Studies.

Are there internships available in American Studies?

Yes, the American Studies Department offers a variety of opportunities for experience in the field. You can apply three internship credits towards one of your outside focus areas. If you take additional credits, they will count towards the 45-credits needed for the ARHU upper-level elective requirement. Because the credits are applied toward the focus area, most internships reflect those interests. The campus Career Center can be an excellent resource for internship ideas and announcements. Examples are given below:

<u>Focus Area</u>	<u>Internship Ideas</u>
Business/ECON	Private sector firms in your preferred field
Education	Tutoring organizations; youth programming
Ethnic Studies	Political advocacy; multicultural organizations
History	Archives; museums; libraries
Material Culture	National Park Service; museums
Media Studies	Broadcasting; print media; American Film Institute
Popular Culture	Sports marketing; fashion industry

Is there an Honors Program in American Studies?

Yes. To be eligible, you must have at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA at the time you enter the major. Once declared, you must maintain a 3.0 to remain in good standing. In order to graduate with Honors in American Studies, you must have a 3.0 cumulative GPA, at least a 3.2 GPA in your major coursework, and complete an honors thesis. You will have to complete 6 credits of honors-designated coursework and an honors thesis (also 6 credits).

For further information, consult the department website:

<http://amst.umd.edu/programs/undergraduate/current-students/honors/>

If you have questions, contact Dr. Dr. Jo B. Paoletti, Director of Undergraduate Studies within the American Studies Department (3331 Tawes Hall, 301-405-1354).