American Studies, MA

ASU is not currently accepting applications for this program.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MA American Studies

American studies is constituted by a multi- and transdisciplinary inquiry into the communities and cultures, values and ideologies, and social formations and institutions of the United States. American studies scholars seek to evaluate the processes and ideas that inform this country and its influences upon other cultures and communities, domestically and abroad.

While the array of disciplines spans the arts, humanities and social sciences, the expertise of our faculty at ASU covers a broad range of historical, literary and media studies, as well as interdisciplinary and community-based approaches. The master's degree students are trained to expand their understanding of the history of American cultures and social conditions while learning the critical contexts for understanding contemporary trends in North America. The master's degree provides students with an advanced analytic foundation in American culture and society in all its variety and complexity.

At a Glance

- **College/School:** The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- **Location:** Tempe campus

Degree Requirements

30 credit hours and a thesis, or
30 credit hours including the required applied project course (AMS 593)

**Required Core (3 credit hours)**
AMS 502 American Studies: Theory and Method (3)
Electives or Research (21 - 24 credit hours)

Culminating Experience (3 or 6 credit hours)
AMS 593 Applied Project (3) or
AMS 599 Thesis (6)

Additional Curriculum Information
For electives or research, students should see the academic unit for the approved course list. Students choose 21 credit hours for the thesis option or 24 for the applied project option.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree, in any field, from a regionally accredited institution. Applicants holding a bachelor's or master's degree in American studies or a closely related field are preferred.

Applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. statement of purpose
4. writing sample
5. curriculum vitae
6. two letters of recommendation
7. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information
An applicant whose native language is not English (regardless of current residency) must provide proof of English proficiency. The history program requires a TOEFL score of at least 600 (PBT) or 90 (iBT).

The writing sample may be an article (published or unpublished), a research paper, a seminar paper, or any other extended sample of expository skill. A minimum of 4,000 to 5,000 words is required. The document should not be password protected.
The statement of purpose should be addressed to the American Studies Graduate Studies Committee. It must explain the applicant's scholarly background and training, career goals, the area of study the applicant wishes to pursue, and why the applicant wants to pursue graduate study at ASU. It must be about 500 words in length.

Two references are required. Applicants should contact faculty or professional supervisors they intend to use for references prior to listing them on the application, and inform the intended recommenders that they will be receiving an email from the ASU American studies program asking them to complete a questionnaire and provide comments on the applicant's suitability for graduate study. Updated email addresses for references should be confirmed before submitting them on the application. References from family members or relations are not recommended.

Contact Information

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