American Studies, MA

What is America? What is the American experience? How do the answers to these questions vary depending on who is being asked? You will think deeply and critically about these questions and about the role of the U.S. in matters near and far.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MA American Studies
ASU's MA program in American studies trains students in interdisciplinary approaches aimed at understanding the American experience in local and global contexts.

The array of disciplines spans the arts, humanities and social sciences, and faculty expertise covers a broad range of ethnographic, historical, literary and media studies as well as interdisciplinary and community-based approaches. Given its geographical location in the American Southwest, ASU's American studies program values an exploration of diasporic and transnational influences in U.S. cultures and social and political history.

The American studies faculty have strengths and expertise in the areas of critical ethnic studies, Indigenous studies, gender studies, Black studies, immigration studies, justice studies, disability studies, queer studies, Latino studies, transborder studies, Asian American studies, cultural studies, environmental humanities and sports studies, allowing students to focus their education around these areas.

Students gain expertise from working in a community of scholars dedicated to addressing critical questions of what America means, what American studies uncovers, and how to expand the boundaries of the new American conversation. Graduate students are immersed in conversations of how one develops, conducts and engages in research on the American experience in academia and beyond. Additionally, faculty and students include the role of other nations, cultures and communities in their study of the meaning of America and critically evaluate the United States in global matters.

American studies graduates can bridge a strong theoretical foundation with applied research to better equip them to enter national and international dialogues.
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 must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (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 must provide proof of English proficiency regardless of current residency. 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.

**Career Opportunities**
Graduates may go on to law school, graduate school or other professional degree programs. Graduates of the Master of Arts program in American studies find success in a number of areas, in local and international contexts, including the following:

- business
- communications
- education
- government positions
- journalism
- law and medical fields
- nonprofits
- political consulting
- professional writing
- public engagement and community relations

**Contact Information**
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