What is America? What is the American experience? How do the answers to these questions vary depending on who is being asked? Learn to 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 explore the field of American Studies as the interdisciplinary analysis of American culture from multiple critical perspectives within transnational dynamics and exchanges.

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

Accelerated Program Options

This program allows students to obtain both a bachelor's and master's degree in as little as five years. It is offered as an accelerated bachelor's plus master's degree with:

- Asian Pacific American Studies, BA

Acceptance to the graduate program requires a separate application. Students typically receive approval to pursue the accelerated master’s during the junior year of their bachelor's degree program. Interested students can learn about eligibility requirements and [how to apply](#).

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)

**Other Requirements (3 credit hours)**
Methods Course (3)

**Electives or Research (18 or 21 credit hours)**

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

Additional Curriculum Information

Students must complete one methods course for the degree with academic advisor approval; AMS 502 cannot be used to meet this requirement. These courses can be drawn from a wide array of units across the various campuses of Arizona State University, but students should take advantage of the SST graduate methods courses. The academic unit will send lists of SST methods courses once per semester; students should consult with their faculty advisor or chairperson and get approval from the graduate chairperson in American Studies to determine the best classes.

For electives or research, students should see the academic unit for the approved course list. Students choose 18 credit hours for the thesis option or 21 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 their current residency. The history program requires a TOEFL iBT score of at least 90.

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.
Tuition Information

When it comes to paying for college, everyone’s situation is different. Students can learn about ASU tuition and financial aid options to find out which will work best for them.

Application Deadlines

Fall

Spring

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

School of Social Transformation | NVS1 310AA
SSTgraduate@asu.edu | 480-965-7682