Degree(s)
+ Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in American studies
+ Minor in American studies
+ Accelerated five-year Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in American studies and Master of Arts (M.A.) in American studies

Program Overview
American studies uses film, food, fashion, buildings, sports, popular media, the environment, art, literature and historical texts in order to understand the diverse cultures of the United States and its place in the world in the past and present.

American studies is interdisciplinary, which means it uses the sources (such as literature, archives, visual art and oral histories) of fields from English to history, from anthropology to art history, and also the methods of collecting and interpreting these sources.

Our program is global and diverse, which means it is not confined to what Americans do in the United States, nor does it focus on a single culture. Instead, it is deeply engaged with the way that many American cultures, politics, economies and individuals cross boundaries and are shaped by interaction.

American studies is practical, which means the everyday is taken as seriously as the esoteric, and the lessons learned in the classroom are applied to work in communities and public institutions.

As a result, an American studies education trains students in critical thinking, complex problem solving, and clear written and oral communication. Our graduates have experience working in diverse groups and applying their knowledge to the world around them. These are sought-after skills transferable to a variety of fields. Our graduates have gone on to work in higher and secondary education, media and communications, non-profit organizations, government, political organizing, social work, law, museums and other cultural institutions.

About the Faculty
Our award-winning faculty are trained specifically in American studies. All have worked extensively in the field as scholars, teachers, curators or creative artists.

Creating opportunities such as mentoring events, American studies faculty are truly invested in student success both inside and outside of the classroom.

Curriculum
A major in American Studies is a 30-credit-hour program, including the introductory course, ASTD 1000: Investigating America, an experience component (an internship or service-learning course), and ASTD 4100: Senior Capstone. The remaining 21 credits are selected from American studies courses. With the approval of the student's departmental advisor, up to nine of these credits can be taken in related fields.

The minor in American studies is an 18-credit-hour program, including the introductory course, ASTD 1000: Investigating America (three credits). The remaining 15 credits are selected from American studies courses.

With the approval of the student's departmental advisor, up to six of these credits can be taken in related fields. For both the major and minor, courses from other departments or programs will only count towards the American studies major if they are not being counted toward another major or minor.

Courses offerings include:
+ ASTD 2300: Americans Abroad
+ ASTD 2400: History and Fiction (topics include the Harlem Renaissance and American women novelists)
+ ASTD 2600: American Places (topics include frontiers and borderlands)
+ ASTD 3000: American Decades (topics include Cold War Culture, 1947-1963; the 1960s; the Decade of Crisis, the 1980s, and 9/11 and after)
+ ASTD 3020: American Mosaic - Literature and Diversity
+ ASTD 3100: Making the American City
+ ASTD 3200: The Urban Crisis
+ ASTD 3500: Religion and American Culture
+ ASTD 3900: Mixed-Race America
+ ASTD 4000: Museum Studies

Many American studies courses fulfill requirements for the College of Arts and Sciences core curriculum.
Admission Requirements

Freshman: All applications are thoroughly and carefully reviewed. Solid academic performance in college preparatory course work is a primary criterion in reviewing a freshman applicant’s file. College admission test scores (ACT or SAT) are used as an additional indicator of the student’s ability to meet the University’s academic requirements and to qualify the student for certain University scholarship programs. To be considered for admission to any Saint Louis University undergraduate program, the applicant must be approaching graduation from an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the General Education Development (GED) test.

Transfer: Applicants must be a graduate of an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the GED. An official high school transcript and official test scores are required only of those students who have attempted fewer than 24 transferable semester hours (or 30 quarter hours) of college credit. Those having completed 24 hours or more of college credit need only submit a transcript from previously attended college(s). In reviewing a transfer applicant’s file, the office of admission holistically examines the student’s academic performance in college-level coursework as an indicator of the student’s ability to meet the academic rigors of Saint Louis University.

Internships and Careers

American studies offers a robust internship program. All internships are designed in close consultation with the department’s internship advisor and participating organizations or institutions. American studies students have held internships at the Saint Louis Art Museum, Saint Louis Zoo, Missouri Botanical Garden, Missouri History Museum, Circuit Court Records Project, Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts and the City Museum, among other sites. An internship is treated like a three-credit course, requiring a minimum of 50 hours per each credit or 10 hours per week.

American studies prepares students for interesting careers that emphasize creativity, writing, analysis, communication, research, and civic engagement. Graduates of the department have careers in museums, government, law, media, and education. American studies training can be used for work in public relations, marketing, advertising, diversity outreach, and tourism. Foundations, agencies, arts institutions and non-profit organizations value the broad education students receive in American studies.

The following list is a just a small sample of jobs where you will find American studies graduates:

+ Curator
+ Editor
+ Exhibit designer
+ Foundation director
+ Grant writer
+ Journalist
+ Labor organizer
+ Lawyer
+ Librarian
+ Non-profit management
+ Public policy analyst
+ Politician
+ Professor
+ Public relations
+ Social worker
+ Speech writer
+ Teacher

Scholarships and Financial Aid

There are two principal ways to help finance a Saint Louis University education:

+ Scholarships: awarded based on academic achievement, service, leadership and financial need.
+ Financial Aid: provided in the form of grants and loans, some of which require repayment.

For priority consideration for merit-based scholarships, applicants should apply for admission by Dec. 1 and complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1.

For information on other scholarships and financial aid, visit the student financial services office online at finaid.slu.edu.