About the Faculty

Our accessible, energetic and award-winning faculty are committed to innovative and meaningful undergraduate teaching and mentoring. Regular mentorship events include the series “How Did You Get Your Awesome Job?” where majors and minors travel to museums, cultural institutions, community organizations and more in order to learn more about the career opportunities available to students. We are a true intellectual community, with faculty members invested in student success both in the classroom and outside of it.

Curriculum

A major in American studies is 30 credit hours, including the introductory course, ASTD 1000: Investigating America (three credits), an experience component (a three-credit internship or service-learning course) and ASTD 4100: Senior Capstone (three credits). 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 18 credit hours, 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.

Recent course topics include:
ASTD 2300: Americans Abroad
ASTD 2400: History and Fiction
ASTD 2600: American Places
ASTD 3000: American Decades
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.

**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.

**WHY CHOOSE THIS PROGRAM?**

- The interdisciplinary study of American culture appeals to creative, ambitious, well-rounded thinkers, and our SLU faculty members get to know these students well and provide one-on-one mentoring and classroom experiences that ensure they leave the program capable and independent thinkers, researchers and writers.
- Our recent undergraduate alumni have gone on to exciting careers in museum education, law, community organizing, nonprofit agencies and government as well as competitive graduate programs in fields like urban planning and historic preservation.
- Our robust internship program connects classroom work to the community and career experience.

In American studies’ successful internship program, internships are student-designed in close collaboration with the department’s internship coordinator and participating organizations and institutions. Internships count as a three-credit course, requiring 50 hours per credit, or 10 hours per week. Past students have partnered with the Saint Louis Art Museum, Saint Louis Zoo, Missouri Botanical Garden, International Institute, Missouri History Museum, Circuit Court Records Project, City Museum and Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts, among other sites.

American studies provides a broad education that prepares students for careers that emphasize creative thinking, strong writing, critical analysis, clear communication, skilled research and civic and community engagement.

The following list is just a small sample of jobs where you can find American studies graduates:
- Curator
- Editor
- Exhibit designer
- Foundation director
- Grant writer
- Journalist
- Labor organizer
- Lawyer
- Librarian
- Nonprofit management
- Politician
- Professor
- Public policy analyst
- Public relations
- Social worker
- Speech writer
- Teacher

**CONTACT**

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