American Studies, B.A.

Learning Outcomes
Upon completion of the B.A. in American studies, students should have:

- a deepened knowledge and critical understanding of American history, cultures, and society;
- the ability to interpret a range of sources (literature, painting, maps, diaries, music, census data, material objects) and to integrate those sources into a persuasive argument about American culture; and
- the ability to explain one’s own perspective on American identity and to place that identity in the diverse, global context of our time.

Overview
American studies majors develop broad training in cultural analysis and communication. Students take courses that make sense of the contemporary world, both nationally and internationally, using a variety of approaches to the study of culture, including film, the digital humanities, art, theater, and literature. Faculty members have particular strengths in racial and ethnic studies, gender, sport studies, journalism, American literature, history, and American popular culture.

Requirements
The Bachelor of Arts with a major in American studies requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including 33 s.h. for the major. Students must maintain a g.p.a. of at least 2.00 in all courses for the major and in all UI courses for the major. They also must complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE CLAS Core. At least 24 s.h. for the major must be earned at the University of Iowa.

The major in American studies stresses broad training in cultural analysis and communication. American studies students may arrange internships (1-3 s.h.) for credit toward their major through the University’s Pomerantz Career Center. A distinctive feature of the American studies major is the opportunity to develop broad training in cultural analysis as well as emphasis of particular interests within the study of American culture.

Shortly after declaring the major, students should meet with their faculty advisor to explore the range of course work available and to begin shaping a plan of study. By the second semester in the major, students and their advisor should have agreed upon a plan of study for completing the requirements for the major.

The B.A. with a major in American studies usually requires the following 11 courses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMST:1010</td>
<td>Understanding American Cultures</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>AMST:2000</td>
<td>Introduction to American Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>AMST:2025</td>
<td>Diversity in American Culture</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMST:3900</td>
<td>Seminar in American Cultural Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>One additional American studies course numbered 2000 or above</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One additional American studies course numbered 3000 or above</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Five additional American studies courses</td>
<td>15</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
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<td>33</td>
</tr>
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Honors
Honors in the Major
Students majoring in American studies have the opportunity to graduate with honors in the major and to pursue special interests through individual, in-depth research.

Honors students carry out a research project. Working under the guidance of an undergraduate advisor, each student defines a research project and then makes a project proposal, ideally by the end of the junior year. A student then completes the project under the guidance of a supervising faculty member. American studies honors students register for up to 6 s.h. in AMST:4999 Honors Project.

Contact the American studies honors advisor for more information about honors in the major.

University of Iowa Honors Program
In addition to honors in the major, students have opportunities for honors study and activities through membership in the University of Iowa Honors Program. Visit Honors at Iowa to learn about the University’s honors program.

Membership in the UI Honors Program is not required to earn honors in the American studies major.

Academic Plans
Four-Year Graduation Plan
The following checkpoints list the minimum requirements students must complete by certain semesters in order to stay on the University’s Four-Year Graduation Plan.

Before the fifth semester begins: declaration of the major and discussion of a plan of study with an American studies advisor

Before the seventh semester begins: at least six courses from the plan of study and at least 90 s.h. earned toward the degree

Before the eighth semester begins: at least nine courses from the plan of study

During the eighth semester: enrollment in all remaining course work in the major, all remaining GE CLAS Core courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate

Career Advancement
American studies provides preparation for careers in business, public relations, marketing, advertising, diversity outreach, tourism, education, politics and government, social service, media and journalism, museums, and the arts. It also provides a good foundation for graduate studies in the humanities, the
social sciences, theology, and business, or for professional study in law or medicine.

The Pomerantz Career Center offers multiple resources to help students find internships and jobs.