American Studies, B.A.

Requirements

The Bachelor of Arts with a major in American studies requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including 33 s.h. of work 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 General Education Program. 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. Students are encouraged, but not required, to choose an emphasis area in American studies with guidance from their faculty advisor. Each emphasis area allows students to group courses in American studies around a specific interdisciplinary theme, topic, or set of social issues.

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>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMST:1010</td>
<td>Understanding American Cultures</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMST:2000</td>
<td>Introduction to American Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<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>
</tr>
<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>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five additional American studies courses</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td></td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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. Courses in the major are those required to complete the major; they may be offered by departments other than the major department.

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 General Education courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate

Sample Plan of Study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>American Studies (B.A.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMST:1010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHET:1030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE: Diversity and Inclusion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE: Natural Sciences without a lab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSI:1600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMST:2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL:1200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE: Natural Sciences with a lab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE: Social Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Second Year

#### Fall

- **AMST:2025** Diversity in American Culture (major) 3
- **GE: Historical Perspectives** 3
- **GE: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning** 3
- **GE: World Languages or elective course** 3
- Elective course 3

**Hours** 15-17

#### Spring

- **AMST:3900** Seminar in American Cultural Studies 3
- **GE: International and Global Issues** 3
- **GE: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts** 3
- **GE: World Languages or elective course** 3-5
- Elective course

**Hours** 15-17

### Third Year

#### Fall

- Major: core course 3
- Major: core course 3
- Major: course in focus area 3
- **GE: World Languages or elective course** 3-5
- Elective course 3

**Hours** 15-17

#### Spring

- Major: 3000-level course 3
- Major: course in focus area 3
- Major: interdisciplinary focus area (see advisor) 3
- **GE: World Languages or elective course** 3-5
- Elective course 3

**Hours** 15-17

### Fourth Year

#### Fall

- Major: 3000-level course 3
- Major: course in focus area 3
- Major: interdisciplinary focus area (see advisor) 3
- Elective course 3
- Elective course 3

**Hours** 15

#### Spring

- Major: course in focus area 3
- Major: interdisciplinary focus area (see advisor) 3
- Major: interdisciplinary focus area (see advisor) 3
- Elective course 3
- Elective course 3

**Hours** 15

**Total Hours** 120-128

---

1. General Education (GE) courses may be completed in any order unless used as a prerequisite for another course. Students should consult with an advisor about the best sequencing of courses. For more information, view the General Education Program.

2. Students may use their elective courses to complete a double major, minors, or certificates.

---

3. Students who have completed four years of a single language in high school have satisfied the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE: World Languages requirement. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course.

### 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.