AMERICAN STUDIES (AMST)

Graduate Degree Program
College: Arts and Humanities

Abstract

American Studies offers an interdisciplinary program of study leading to the Masters of Arts and the Doctor of Philosophy degrees. Research and teaching in the Department focus on two intellectual themes: the cultures of everyday life, and cultural constructions of identity and difference. These themes drive our examinations of multiple cultures within the U.S., across the Americas, and transnationally. They also embrace numerous cultural studies approaches, including material and visual culture, ethnography and life history, popular culture and media studies, queer studies, studies of the body and sexualities, gender studies, food studies, digital cultures, critical race studies, and cultural landscapes and geography. Students develop expertise in multiple methodologies and take courses in many departments across the University. The Department benefits from a large and diverse affiliate faculty, strong relationships with cultural institutions such as the Smithsonian museums, and ready access to many other museums in the Baltimore-Washington corridor, government agencies, archives and historical societies, and multiple local communities. Students may also take advantage of graduate certificate programs for which our courses apply, including Museum Scholarship and Material Culture, Critical Theory, Historic Preservation, and Women's Studies. The program in U.S. Latina/o Studies is contained within the Department, and we have a leadership role in developing Native American Studies.

Financial Assistance

A limited number of teaching assistantships are available in addition to graduate fellowships. Students who hold assistantships typically teach two sections undergraduate AMST courses.

Contact

Additional information on program offerings, degree requirements, and financial aid can be obtained on the department's Web site **(**http://www.amst.umd.edu**)** and by writing to out contact address.

Department of American Studies
1328 Tawes Hall
7751 Alumni Drive
University of Maryland
College Park, MD 20742
Telephone: 301.405.1354
Fax: 301.314.9453
Email: amst-dgs@umd.edu

Website: http://www.amst.umd.edu

Courses: AMST (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/courses/amst/)

ADMISSIONS

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- Statement of Purpose
- Transcript(s)
- TOEFL/IELTS/PTE (international graduate students (https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/english-language-proficiency-requirements/))

PROGRAM-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

- Letters of Recommendation (3)
- CV/Resume
- Writing Samples (1 required, up to 2 more optional)
- Description of Research/Work Experience
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) (optional)

Many admitted students have previously majored in American Studies, History, English, Ethnic Studies, Women's Studies, Anthropology, Art or Architectural History, Journalism, and Communications. However, applicants with broad backgrounds in arts and humanities and/or the behavioral and social sciences are also given serious consideration if interdisciplinary, American Studies-related subject matter or theories have been emphasized. Application requirements for both M.A. and Ph.D. programs include:

International applicants must also submit TOEFL scores. Applicants who do not yet have M.A. degrees and who desire to obtain the Ph.D. degree at Maryland should apply directly to the Ph.D. program.

For more admissions information or to apply to the program, please visit our Graduate School website (https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/application-process/step-step-guide-applying/).

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Type of Applicant	Fall Deadline
Domestic Applicants	
US Citizens and Permanent Residents	December 1, 2026
International Applicants	
F (student) or J (exchange visitor) visas; A,E,G,H,I and L visas and immigrants	December 1, 2026

RESOURCES AND LINKS:

Program Website: amst.umd.edu (http://www.amst.umd.edu)
Application Process: gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/application-process/step-step-guide-applying (https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/application-process/step-step-guide-applying/)

REQUIREMENTS

- American Studies, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/american-studies-amst/american-studies-phd/)
- American Studies, Master of Arts (M.A.) (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/american-studies-amst/american-studies-ma/)

FACILITIES AND SPECIAL RESOURCES

The Washington, D.C. and Baltimore areas offer extraordinary research facilities for the study of past and present Americans$rsquo; experiences and culture, including the Library of Congress, the National Archives, the Smithsonian's many institutions, the National Park Service, the Maryland

Historical Society, and the Walters Art Museum and National Gallery, and other cultural institutions. The National Archives II, National Trust Library and Library of American Broadcasting are all located on the College Park campus. There are also numerous local and regional-focused museums, collections, archives, libraries, and "think tanks" that can support students' interests in issues and topics related to identity and difference and the cultures of everyday lfe. Through consortia arrangements with universities in the area, including George Washington University and Georgetown University, students may augment their programs with courses otherwise unavailable at the University of Maryland.