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
government. 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.

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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 (2)
• Description of Research/Work Experience
• Graduate Record Examination (GRE)

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, 2022
International Applicants
F (student) or J (exchange visitor) visas; A,E,G,H,I and L visas and
immigrants December 1, 2022

RESOURCES AND LINKS:
Program Website: amst.umd.edu (http://www.amst.umd.edu)
Application Process: gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/application-
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; 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 life. 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.