

## What is American Studies?

American Studies is the interdisciplinary study of American culture(s). Students study U.S. cultures and their interactions and explore the major issues and problems of American society by examining the arts, history, politics, and literature of the diverse peoples of the United States.

## What are the major requirements?

Go to [www.catalogs.umn.edu/programs.html](http://www.catalogs.umn.edu/programs.html) and select “undergraduate majors.”

## How do I declare an American Studies major?

You will be required to declare a major by the time you have completed 60 credits.

1. Talk with someone from the department: an adviser, a professor, or a teaching assistant, to learn more about the major and its requirements.
2. When you decide upon an American Studies major, meet with the appropriate person from the department to complete a Major Program form.
3. Bring a copy of the form to your CLA student community.
4. If you decide to change your major, contact your student community to learn more about your new major’s declaration process.

## What can I do with a major in American Studies?

### Skills

American Studies majors develop skills that are applicable to a wide variety of careers.

These skills include:

- Knowledge of American culture and history and how it impacts current society
- Verbal and written communication skills
- Ability to formulate clear and persuasive messages
- Listening, clarifying, questioning and responding skills
- Ability to work well with diverse groups

### Employment

Common areas of employment for this major include but are not limited to:

- Media—journalistic writing, editing, public relations, management
- Nonprofit—social service, fundraising, programming, management
- Education—teaching, research, admissions, advising, student affairs
- Government—law, public administrator, historian, research, elected official
- Arts and Entertainment—announcing, writing, managing, development
- Business—marketing, human resources, sales, consulting, recruiting

## For more information:

### About the American Studies major:

Undergraduate Advising Office  
104 Scott Hall  
(612) 624-4190  
<http://cla.umn.edu/american/amstdy@tc.umn.edu>

### About CLA requirements, graduation, and other information about majors:

CLA Society and Culture  
Student Community  
122 Johnston Hall  
(612) 624-2549  
<http://sandc.class.umn.edu/>

### or

CLA Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Program  
19 Johnston Hall  
(612) 625-2300  
<http://www.class.umn.edu/mlk/mlk@class.cla.umn.edu>

### About careers, internships, and community learning opportunities in this major and others:

Career and Community  
Learning Center  
135 Johnston Hall  
(612) 624-7577  
[www.cclc.umn.edu/cclc@class.cla.umn.edu](http://www.cclc.umn.edu/cclc@class.cla.umn.edu)

### About graduation with honors:

CLA Honors Division  
20 Nicholson  
(612) 624-5522  
[www.honors.class.umn.edu/honors@class.cla.umn.edu](http://www.honors.class.umn.edu/honors@class.cla.umn.edu)

Today's workplace requires individuals with interpersonal skills, the ability to communicate effectively, an ability to solve problems, and adaptability. CLA graduates find that they are well-prepared in all these areas and that their education—especially when combined with experience gained through internships, volunteer positions, past jobs, and other collegiate involvement—makes them competitive.

The **Career & Community Learning Center** provides students with the tools to identify and pursue potential careers. An extensive resource room, career courses and workshops, and a helpful staff are just some of the ways we can help.

### **Remember!**

You have not declared a major until you have:

- completed a Major Program form with your major adviser,
- filed a copy with the major department,
- and filed a copy with your CLA student community.

**Don't forget: keep a copy for yourself!**