Master of Arts in American Studies

American Studies is an interdisciplinary program offering graduate work on society and culture in the United States—past, present, and in global context. It accommodates a variety of individual academic objectives. All students are asked to define a concentration—a period or problem—and to draw on appropriate university resources relating to that area. Students must demonstrate coherence in their graduate work and be able to show relationships between their concentrations and the wider socio cultural system. To accomplish this, students must develop knowledge (including historical perspective) in the humanities and social sciences.

The Master of Arts in American Studies is a free-standing degree. Students admitted to the M.A. program may hold bachelor's degrees in any field and will be considered for admission based on the merit of their application. Students nearing completion of the M.A. program may apply to a doctoral program, either at KU or another university.

Admission to Graduate Studies

An applicant seeking to pursue graduate study in the College may be admitted as either a degree-seeking or non-degree seeking student. Policies and procedures of Graduate Studies govern the process of Graduate admission. These may be found in the Graduate Studies (http://catalog.ku.edu/graduate-studies) section of the online catalog.

Please consult the Departments & Programs (http://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences) section of the online catalog for information regarding program-specific admissions criteria and requirements. Special admissions requirements pertain to Interdisciplinary Studies degrees, which may be found in the Graduate Studies section of the online catalog.

Admission to the M.A. in American Studies

Completion of a bachelor's degree is required of all applicants. Admission is based primarily on the applicant’s statement of academic objectives, record of prior studies at the undergraduate or graduate level, and references from persons familiar with the applicant’s work. Evidence of preparation for graduate study may include substantial work in American Studies or related fields, such as American history, literature, art, media, sociology, anthropology, political science, journalism, or interdisciplinary studies. Prospective students must take the Graduate Record Examination and have the results forwarded to the office of Graduate Studies (http://graduate.ku.edu/application-process).

Submit your graduate application online (http://graduate.ku.edu/ku-graduate-application).

M.A. Degree Requirements

The Master of Arts in American Studies requires 30 credit hours, including courses and the completion of a research article or thesis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Courses (12)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMS 801</td>
<td>Introduction to American Studies (offered every fall)</td>
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<tr>
<td>AMS 802</td>
<td>Theorizing America (offered every fall)</td>
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<tr>
<td>AMS 803</td>
<td>Research Methods in American Studies (offered every spring)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective Methods (3)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective Topics (9)</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thesis Hours (6)</td>
<td>6</td>
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AMS 804 Research Seminar (offered every fall) 3
Elective Methods (3) 3
Elective Topics (9) Three courses constitute a coherent concentration, including historical depth in a defined area that prepares the student for either the master's thesis or publishable article.
Thesis Hours (6) After completing required courses, the student enrolls in AMS 899 and continues enrolling in thesis hours until their article or thesis is accepted by their committee.
Research Project and Defense (0) Students complete a project of original research, resulting in a thesis or scholarly article. A committee of three faculty members evaluates the project, and the student provides an oral defense.

Handbook

Further details about meeting the degree requirements can be found in the Department's Graduate Handbook (http://americanstudies.ku.edu/handbook-graduate-students).

Transition from the MA Program

Students admitted to the MA Program in American Studies at KU must petition the Department if they wish to continue for the PhD. This requires an internal application process, including the submission of a research statement and letter of support from a KU American Studies faculty member. All admissions to the PhD program are at the discretion of the Graduate Committee.