Bachelor of Arts in American Studies

This major is designed to provide students with an integrated and critical knowledge of American culture, drawing on courses in American Studies and in the traditional disciplines and culminating in two senior seminars. A number of interests may be pursued within the major, including popular culture, art, technology, business, law, archives, museology, and conservation. The major helps prepare students for careers in business, teaching, government, and a number of other areas, and for enrollment in law and other professional programs.

Contact
Administrative Assistant
Melissa Forkey
mpf5451@psu.edu
+1 717 948 6189

Program Chair
Anne A. Verplanck, Ph.D.
aav3@psu.edu
+1 717 948 6391
Curriculum
For a B. A. degree in American Studies, a minimum of 123 credits is required.

Entry to Major Requirements:

1. At the end of the sophomore year, any student in good standing may gain entrance into the major without having completed specific courses.
2. Any student seeking entrance during the fifth semester will be granted entrance at the discretion of the American Studies Committee and/or Director following evaluation of the student's record.
3. Any student seeking entrance during or after the sixth semester will be expected to have completed at least 12 credits, which may be counted toward the major in American Studies.

Courses Overview
For the B.A. degree in American Studies, a minimum of 123 credits is required.

Scheduling Recommendation by Semester Standing given like (Sem: 1-2)

In addition to General Education requirements (45 credits), this major requires the following:

FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR: (Included in ELECTIVES or GENERAL EDUCATION course selection)
UNITED STATES CULTURES AND INTERNATIONAL CULTURES: (Included in ELECTIVES, GENERAL EDUCATION course selection, or REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR)
WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM: (Included in REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR)
ELECTIVES: 21 credits

BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: 24 credits
(3 of these 24 credits are included in the REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR, GENERAL EDUCATION, or ELECTIVES and 0-12 credits are included in ELECTIVES. Foreign language proficiency is demonstrated by examination.)
(REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR: 33 credits (A student enrolled in this major must receive a grade of C or better, as specified in Senate Policy 82-44.)

PRESCRIBED COURSES (6 credits)
AM ST 491W(6) (Sem: 5-8)

ADDITIONAL COURSES (3 credits)
AM ST 100 GH(3) or AM ST 100Y GH(3) (Sem: 1-4)

SUPPORTING COURSES AND RELATED AREAS (24 credits)
(Include 12 credits at the 400 level distributed in at least two of the areas.)
Select 9 credits in each of two of the following areas; select 6 credits in one other of the areas: (Sem: 3-8)
a. American literature
b. American history
c. American art, philosophy, and religion (humanities)
d. American social sciences

Visit for complete details.

Undergraduate Admissions Requirements
Minimum high school course requirements for admission to baccalaureate (four-year) degree programs are listed below. Keep in mind that specific programs may have additional requirements or recommendations.

English
Four units, including one unit each in composition and literature, are required.

Social Studies/Art/Humanities
Three units in any combination of social studies, arts, and humanities are required.

World Language
Two units in a single world language other than English are required. However, a student may be admitted with fewer than two units in a world language other than English, but must correct this deficiency by the time s/he earns 60 credits or graduates from Penn State, whichever comes first. This deficiency may be corrected by passing one three- or four-credit college level world language course or by demonstrating proficiency equivalent to two units of high school world language study.

Either a third unit in the same language or an additional unit in a second world language other than English is recommended.

Science
Three units of science are required
Preparation in chemistry and physics is recommended but not required for our Science and Engineering/Engineering Technology programs

Math
Three units of mathematics are required (four are recommended), selected from any combination of algebra, geometry, and trigonometry
Some programs have additional mathematics requirements.
Our Business, Engineering/Engineering Technology, and Science programs require one-half unit of trigonometry or higher level math within the required three units

Penn State requires proof of graduation or a GED for admission to four-year degree programs.

*In most high school curricula, one unit = one year.

Visit Undergraduate Admissions: Admissions Requirements for more information (http://goo.gl/eVGAMB)