

AMERICAN STUDIES

Graduate Program Head	Jeffrey P. Beck
Program Code	AMSTD
Campus(es)	Harrisburg (Ph.D., M.A.)
Degrees Conferred	Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Master of Arts (M.A.) Integrated B.A. in American Studies and M.A. in American Studies
The Graduate Faculty	View (https://secure.gradsch.psu.edu/gpms/?searchType=fac&prog=AMSTD)

Master of Arts (M.A.)

The Master of Arts program in American Studies at Penn State Harrisburg offers an interdisciplinary approach to studying American society and culture. Through coursework and hands-on experiences, students gain valuable knowledge and analytical skills that prepare them for diverse roles in education, government, museums, cultural organizations, and communications.

With our flexible study options, including full- or part-time enrollment and evening courses, students can tailor their academic journey to suit their needs. Students also have the option to earn a certificate in heritage and museum practice or folklore and ethnography alongside their master's degree.

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

The Ph.D. program in American Studies offers an interdisciplinary approach to studying American society and culture. Through coursework and hands-on experiences, students gain the knowledge and analytical skills needed for diverse careers both within and outside academia.

Our program offers a wide range of areas for coursework and research, including history, politics, cultural studies, literature, popular culture, folklore and ethnography, visual and material culture, regional and urban studies, and public history and museum studies. These areas intersect with important historical and contemporary issues such as race, gender and sexuality, ethnicity, and class, which are key components of our program.

Our faculty members are active researchers who support and encourage students to present their work at regional, national, and international venues. Located near renowned heritage sites and vibrant cities like Philadelphia and Washington, D.C., our program offers ample research opportunities, internships, and field trips.

Our graduate students become part of a rich interdisciplinary community of American scholars. Our program offers the benefits of small academic seminars, financial support, faculty mentorship, professionalization seminars, support for conference participation, and diverse research, internship, and employment opportunities.

We understand the needs of our students, and that's why we offer flexible scheduling, allowing many to pursue their degree while working full or part time. Most core graduate courses are held in the evening to accommodate busy schedules.