MASTER OF ARTS IN THE FIELD OF
AMERICAN STUDIES

Housed in the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences,
American studies at GW is one of the nation’s most rigorous
and innovative programs. With a core of eleven full-time and
nine affiliated and associated faculty members, the program
emphasizes interdisciplinary cultural analysis with approaches from
anthropology, geography, political theory, history, architectural
history, art history, folklife, performance studies, English, and media
studies. The department’s particular strengths are in cultural history
and cultural studies, art and culture, race and ethnicity, gender and
sexuality, transnational American studies, urban studies of space and
place, political and public cultures, and religion.

Students in the master’s program can pursue a general degree
in American studies or a concentration in museums and material
culture. The general program prepares students for advanced work
at the PhD level. The museums and material culture concentration,
which draws on the department’s interdisciplinary strengths in the
analysis of culture, provides pre-professional training with strong
links to pertinent DC cultural resource management institutions,
including the Smithsonian Institution. Both programs stress
professional-level research and writing skills.

Visit the program website (https://
americanstudies.columbian.gwu.edu/) for additional information.

ADMISSIONS

Admission deadlines: Fall - February 1: Priority consideration for admission
and funding; April 1: Guaranteed review for
admission and consideration for funding, if available.
(Applications for admission will continue to be
accepted after April 1, when space remains available
in the program.)

Spring - October 1

Standardized test scores: The GRE general exam is not required.

The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL),
the academic International English Language Testing System (IELTS), or the PTE Academic is required of
all applicants except those who hold a bachelor’s,
master’s, or doctoral degree from a college or
university in the United States or from an institution
located in a country in which English is the official
language, provided English was the language of
instruction.

Minimum scores for the program are:
- Academic IELTS: an overall band score of 6.0 with no
individual score below 5.0; or
- TOEFL: 550 on paper-based or 80 on Internet-
based; or
- PTE Academic: 53

Admissions requirements:
- Applicants to the MA who do not meet minimum
English language requirements may be eligible for our
full-time Applied English Language program.

Recommendations: Two (2) recommendations
required:

Prerequisite requirements: The degree of Bachelor of Arts in American studies or
a related field.

Prior academic records: Transcripts are required from all colleges and
universities attended, whether or not credit
was earned, the program was completed, or
the credit appears as transfer credit on another
transcript. Unofficial transcripts from all colleges and
universities attended must be uploaded to your online
application. Official transcripts are required only of
applicants who are offered admission.

If transcripts are in a language other than English,
English language translations must be provided. The
English translation alone should be uploaded into
your application.

Statement of purpose: An essay of no more than 500 - 750 words, in which
you state your purpose in undertaking graduate study
in your chosen field and in American Studies at GW
in particular, including your academic objectives,
research interests, and career plans.

International applicants only: Please flow this link - https://columbian.gwu.edu/
international-graduate-applicants (https://columbian.gwu.edu/international-graduate-applicants/) - to review the International Applicant
Information carefully for details on required
documents and English language requirements.

Supporting documents not submitted online should be mailed to:

Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, Office of Graduate
Studies
The George Washington University
801 22nd Street NW, Phillips Hall 107
Washington DC 20052

For additional information about the admissions process visit
the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences Frequently Asked
Questions (https://columbian.gwu.edu/graduate-admissions-faq/) page.

Contact:
askccas@gwu.edu
202-994-6210 (phone)

Hours: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday

REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements must be fulfilled:
The general requirements stated under Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, Graduate Programs (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/#degree regulation text).

Completion of course and other requirements in either general studies or in the museums and material culture concentration.

General studies—30 credits, including a 3-credit required course, 6 credits in research seminar courses, and 21 credits in elective courses; museums and material culture concentration—30 credits, including 6 credits in required courses, 6 credits in research seminars, and 18 credits in elective courses.

**General studies requirements**

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<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMST 6100</td>
<td>Scope and Methods in American Studies</td>
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At least six credits in research seminars. This may include AMST 6195 taken twice or other approved research courses.

A minimum of 21 credits in elective courses pertaining to the study of American culture approved by the department. These may include graduate courses in anthropology, English, fine arts and art history, geography, history, media and public affairs, and political science.

**Concentration in museums and material culture requirements**

This concentration, offered in association with the Smithsonian Institution, emphasizes the use of physical objects and spaces in historical research.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Required</td>
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<tr>
<td>AMST 6100</td>
<td>Scope and Methods in American Studies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMST 6710</td>
<td>American Material Culture</td>
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At least 6 credits in designated research seminars.

At least 18 additional credits in courses pertaining to the study of American culture, museum studies, and museum education.