

# DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY 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 11 full-time and nine affiliated and associated faculty members, the program emphasizes interdisciplinary cultural analysis with approaches from anthropology, architectural history, art history, English, folklife, geography, media studies, history, performance studies, and political theory. 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 PhD program construct a comprehensive plan of study in three related fields tailored to their interests. These interdisciplinary fields highlight major problems in American studies and in related disciplines, such as art history, English, history, and political science. Students develop research agendas early in their studies through participation in seminars and workshops, often drawing on the rich resources of DC-based archives and research institutes. The department strongly supports the acquisition of foreign language skills.

Visit the program website (<https://americanstudies.columbian.gwu.edu/phd-american-studies/>) for additional information.

## ADMISSIONS

Admission deadlines: Fall - December 15

Standardized GRE general test not required.  
test scores:

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 7.0 with no individual score below 6.0; or
- TOEFL: 600 on paper-based or 100 on Internet-based; or
- PTE Academic: 68;

Recommendations: Three (3) recommendations required:

Prerequisite Applicants are required to have an adequate background in the humanities and/or social sciences as they apply to the field of American studies

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.
Writing Sample:	Applicants must submit a current writing sample of 15 – 20 pages. The sample should reflect your abilities to articulate complex ideas and to utilize evidence in support of your arguments. The writing sample should also provide an example of your research skills, as well as your engagement with scholarship in American studies or related fields.
International applicants only:	Please follow this link - <a href="https://columbian.gwu.edu/international-graduate-applicants">https://columbian.gwu.edu/international-graduate-applicants</a> ( <a href="https://columbian.gwu.edu/international-graduate-applicants/">https://columbian.gwu.edu/international-graduate-applicants/</a> ) - 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](mailto:askccas@gwu.edu)  
202-994-6210 (phone)

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

## REQUIREMENTS

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required</b>		
AMST 6100	Scope and Methods in American Studies	

At least two designated research seminars.

At least one course in theory approved by the advisor.

Degree candidates must pass a general examination in three areas, to be taken over the course of one month, by the end of the third year from matriculation. The three fields are elected with approval of the advisory committee and should constitute a coherent, interdisciplinary program of study; one field may be devoted to the comparative study of a non-U.S. culture.