

AMERICAN STUDIES, SEQUENTIAL M.A./PH.D. (MA/ PHD IN AMERICAN STUDIES)

Degree Requirements

The sequential M.A./Ph.D program in American Studies is designed for students who have not yet completed a M.A. in American Studies or a related field and wish to pursue original, advanced research toward a doctorate in the field.

Students will take two semesters of course work and complete their M.A. thesis requirement in their first year and then take three more semesters of course work at the Ph.D. level while preparing for Ph.D. qualifying examinations. Following completion of these exams, students will complete and defend a dissertation. Each step involves extensive work with a faculty advisor and committee.

Students should consult the American Studies Graduate Handbook, available at the Program website, for a fuller account of program requirements.

Course Requirements

To complete the M.A. portion of the M.A./Ph.D. track, 24 course credit hours are required, including 6 credits of 695. In addition, 6 credits of thesis preparation under AMST 700 are required. To complete the Ph.D. portion of the M.A./Ph.D. track, 36 additional course credit hours are required, including at least 12 credit hours of AMST 795 Dir Dissertation Research. In addition, 24 credit hours of Dissertation preparation under AMST 800 Dissertation are required. The total of **90** required credits will be distributed as follows:

M.A. Credits

Code	Title	Hours
AMST 661	Intro American Studies	3
AMST 590	Topics in American Studies	15
or AMST 690	Directed Research	
or AMST 715	Topics in American Studies	
5 courses for 15 credits. Graduate level seminars offered by the Department of History or the Department of Anthropology can substitute for one or more of these courses, with permission from the Program Director of Graduate Studies.		
AMST 695	Dir Thesis Master's Research	6
*3 credits each semester of the M.A. year for a total of 6 credits		
AMST 700	Thesis	6
*3 credits each semester of the M.A. year for a total of 6 credits		
At least 12 credit hours (4 courses) must be earned in courses numbered 600 or above, including AMST 695 and excluding AMST 700.		
Total Hours		30

Ph.D. Credits

Code	Title	Hours
AMST 590	Topics in American Studies	24
or AMST 690	Directed Research	
or AMST 715	Topics in American Studies	
8 courses over three semesters for a total of 24 credits. Graduate level seminars offered by the Department of History or the Department of Anthropology can substitute for one or more of these courses, with permission from the Program Director of Graduate Studies.		
AMST 795	Dir Dissertation Research	12
AMST 800	Dissertation	24
At least 30 semester credit hours must be earned in courses numbered 600 or above, including AMST 795 and excluding AMST 800.		
Total Hours		60

Thesis Requirement

Students completing the sequential M.A./Ph.D. program complete an M.A. thesis based on original research that makes a contribution to the study of American life. This thesis consists of a portfolio containing two significant research papers that usually total between 35 and 65 pages or one substantial, long essay of the same length. Students should consult with their advisor and the director of graduate studies if they wish to include a digital component in their M.A. portfolio.

Exam Requirement

The thesis, supplemented by an oral defense before a faculty committee, will serve as the M.A. field examination in American Studies.

Language Requirement

Ph.D. candidates must demonstrate a reading knowledge of a relevant language other than English by the end of the fourth semester of enrollment. See the American Studies Graduate Handbook for further details of the examination process.

Qualifying Exam Requirement

Between the end of the sixth semester and the first four weeks into the seventh semester of enrollment, students will take a qualifying exam that consists of both a written and oral component. Students will be examined in one Major and one or more Minor Fields. The total number of examinations is usually four, each with a different examiner. Customarily the major field consists of two or three examinations, and the minor field(s) one or two.

Dissertation Requirement

Ph.D. candidates complete a dissertation based upon original research that makes a scholarly contribution to the study of American life.

Satisfactory Progress

MA/Ph.D. students are expected to complete and defend their MA thesis no later than the fourth week of the Fall semester following their first year in the Program. They must satisfy all requirements for the MA by the end of the spring term of their second year in the Program in order to receive continued funding.

All requirements for the Ph.D. must be completed within seven years from the first term of enrollment in the M.A./Ph.D. program, excluding periods of approved leave and military service. Requests for extension beyond the seven-year limit must be filed following the procedures outlined in Time Limits for Degrees and Extensions in the Graduate Arts & Sciences Catalog.

To be eligible to graduate, students must achieve a cumulative grade point average of 3.3 on a 4.0 scale in courses undertaken for graduate credit at William & Mary after admission to a degree program. A student who receives a grade of C+ (2.3) or lower in a course may repeat that course one time for credit, upon approval of both the instructor of the course and the graduate director for the student's program. When such a repeat attempt is approved, the grades for both attempts will count in the cumulative GPA, but only the most recent attempt will count toward the degree. No credit toward a degree will be allowed for a course in which a student receives a grade below C (grade point = 2.0).

The program conducts periodic reviews of all students. Students who fail to make satisfactory progress towards their chosen degree(s) or who fail to maintain the grade point average required by the Program (3.3) are subject to suspension.

Students whose grade point average falls below 3.3 are put on academic probation the following semester. If at the end of the following probationary semester the grade point average remains below 3.3, funded students will lose their funding, and students - funded or not - may be suspended from the Program.

Graduate students in American Studies are expected to finish all courses for which they are registered by the close of each semester in which they are taking these classes. If, because of illness or other extenuating circumstances, a student must postpone work for a course, they may request a grade of I (incomplete) from the course instructor. A grade of I will convert to an F at the end of the semester after the class was taken if the postponed work has not been completed. A grade of I may be extended only under extraordinary circumstances and only with the consent of the instructor and the approval of the student's Director of Graduate Studies and the Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies. For further information on Arts & Sciences policy regarding incomplete grades, see the Grading and Academic Progress section of the catalog.