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Career Services

American Studies

Transferable Skills

A liberal arts degree in general, reflects a comprehensive education emphasizing analytical skills, critical thinking and communication skills; abilities in high demand for all employers. Concentrating your studies in a major allows you to also gain specific transferable skills of interest to particular employers and industries.

Graduates with a major in American Studies are attractive to employers due to their abilities in the following areas:

- Strong research skills
- Ability to understand ideas and values
- Awareness of intercultural perspectives
- Proficiency in analytical reasoning
- Wide-ranging curiosity
- Breadth and flexibility of interest that emphasizes the relationships of different issues
- Facility with oral and written communication
- Interdisciplinary approach to problems
- Knowledge about the world we live in and its relationship to the past and to other societies
- Original thinking that crosses traditional boundaries
- Ability to connect academic issues to work outside of the academy

Range of Example Positions held by American Studies Majors

Please note that some of these positions require an advanced degree. For more information and descriptions of these careers, visit [O*NET On-line](#).

- Associate Director of Development, The Athenian School
- Associate, Butz, Dunn, DeSantis & Bingham
- Attorney
- Deputy District Attorney, County of Los Angeles
- Deputy District Attorney, San Bernardino County District
- Development Associate, Youth Services of Tulsa
- Development Coordinator, American Assoc. of Museums
- Director of Alumni Affairs, Milken Community High School
- Director, Partnership Mkt, US Olympic Committee
- Graduate student: American Studies, Business, Humanities, Library and Information Science, Public History, Law, Historic Preservation, Creative Writing
- Health educator, Oregon Dept. of Health Services
- Human Resource Manager, Deloitte & Touche
- Life Coach, Your Life-Inspired
- Manuscript Cataloguer, Folger Shakespeare Library
- Master Counselor, Eckerd Youth Alternatives
- National Development Director, America Votes
- Pastor, Occidental College
- Pastry Chef
- Patient Services Coordinator, SOMA Physical Therapy
- Producer, KHON TV
- Project Manager, Yahoo!
- Regional Field Organizer, Democracy Matters
- Secondary school teacher
- Senior Council Aide, City of Los Angeles
- Senior Project Manager, AARP
- Staff Writer, Phoenix New Times
- Strategic Marketing Manager, Pacific Asia Museum
- Teach for America

Professional Associations

Professional associations or organizations can be a great way to meet, learn from and network with professionals in your field of interest. Inexpensive student memberships are often available. These are only a sampling of professional associations. Be sure to search for others that may be applicable or helpful.

- [American Studies Association](#)
- [American Quarterly](#), the journal of the American Studies Association
- [H-Amstdy Discussion List](#)
- [American Studies Journals](#): A Directory of World-Wide Resources
- [American Memory Project](#) from the Library of Congress