

# AMERICAN STUDIES

## What can I do with this degree?

AREAS	EMPLOYERS	STRATEGIES
<p><b>GOVERNMENT</b></p>	<p>Federal agencies including:            The Smithsonian Institute            National Archives and Records            Library of Congress            National Park Service            Intelligence services            Foreign service</p> <p>State and local agencies including:            Archives and libraries            Museums, parks, and historic sites            Municipal archives            Arts and humanities councils</p>	<p>Gain relevant experience in student government or other related organizations.            Complete an internship with a government agency.            Maintain a superior academic record.            Plan on obtaining an advanced degree.            Develop foreign language skills.            Become familiar with specialized government hiring procedures.            Consider a variety of entry-level positions in all branches of local, state, and federal government.</p>
<p><b>EDUCATION</b>            Teaching            Elementary, Middle, or Secondary            Higher Education            Community Education</p>	<p>Public and private schools            Colleges and universities            Museums            National and state parks</p>	<p>Develop excellent presentation skills.            Become skilled in the use of multimedia.            Learn how to develop curriculums and workshops.            Become an "expert" in a particular subject.            Obtain teaching certificate for public school teaching.            Obtain a graduate degree for college and/or university teaching.            Gain experience as a tutor, camp counselor, church school teacher, etc.            Build strong relationships with professors, supervisors, or other community leaders for strong personal recommendations.            Complete an internship or volunteer in a setting of interest.</p>
<p><b>WRITING/EDITING</b>            Creative Writing            Journalism – Print &amp; Broadcast            Free-lance</p>	<p>Newsletter            Magazine            Broadcast media companies including television and movie industry            Trade, professional, or consumer publications            Internet sites            Advertising agencies            Large corporations            Government agencies            Colleges and universities</p>	<p>Select elective coursework in a particular area of interest            Write for campus publications such as college Newspaper, magazines, or department/program newsletters            Develop speaking and debate skills            Become familiar with the proposal writing and submission process involved in freelance writing</p>

AREAS	EMPLOYERS	STRATEGIES
<b>CURATORIAL AND ARCHIVAL MANAGEMENT</b>	Museums Historical homes Art galleries Special collections Historical societies Libraries Universities and colleges National, state, and local government Corporations Non-profit organizations Research institutes	Obtain an internship or volunteer in a related organization. Develop excellent written and oral communication skills. Hone organizational skills and develop attention to detail. Earn a master's degree in information sciences for advanced opportunities in data management.
<b>NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS</b>	History museums and historic sites Historical associations and societies Cultural heritage organizations Historical projects Research and service institutions	Volunteer with various nonprofit organizations of interest. Consider supplementing curriculum with relevant course work in anthropology, sociology, art history, or foreign languages
<b>POLITICS</b>	Elected or appointed public officials (i.e., legislators, governors, mayors, judges) National political party headquarters Public interest/advocacy groups Political campaigns	Gain experience and make contacts through internships with government agencies or public officials. Volunteer to work with public interest groups, political campaigns, political associations, or community service projects. Participate in student government and campus politics.
<b>LAW</b>	Law firms Corporate legal departments Government agencies Public advocacy groups	Obtain paralegal training or law degree. Gain experience through summer or part-time work in a law firm. Volunteer with a public advocacy group. Participate in mock trial and pre-law associations.

AREAS	EMPLOYERS	STRATEGIES
<p><b>BUSINESS</b>  Management  Sales  Office Administration</p>	<p>All major retail firms including drug, specialty, variety, and department store chains  Wholesalers  Manufacturers  Insurance companies  Real estate agencies  Financial institutions  Nonprofit organizations</p>	<p>Earn a minor in business.  Obtain related experience through advertisement sales positions with campus yearbook or newspaper.  Gain relevant retail sales experience.  Acquire good computer and statistical skills.  Develop excellent communication skills.  Demonstrate a high energy level.  Obtain leadership experience in student or community organizations.  Consider an MBA for brand management, consulting, and research opportunities.</p>

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

- An undergraduate degree in American Studies is good preparation for graduate study in American Studies as well as other areas such as history, literature, ethnic studies, law, or business.
- Research the prerequisites of the area of interest and tailor program of study to meet curricular and skill needs.
- Part-time, summer, internship, and volunteer experiences are critical.
- Develop skills by obtaining a leadership role in a school or community organization.
- Get involved in Student Government.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills are imperative for most careers related to American Studies.
- Become familiar with the government application process for opportunities in federal, state, or local government.
- Prepare to develop a specialty area including both academic training and work experience for American Studies related careers.
- Develop patience, persistence, and drive in obtaining American Studies related positions.
- For careers in politics, be prepared to volunteer extensively before being hired or elected as an employee or official. Begin by working with the campaign or official of choice while in college.
- For careers in arts and humanities, obtain a broad liberal arts background including knowledge of the arts, personal and mass communication, and foreign languages.
- Join related social and/or professional organizations.
- Develop a network of both formal and informal contacts.
- Research websites and books that address various job opportunities, pay structure, and hiring processes.