American Studies is the interdisciplinary study of the American experience, past and present. Students pursuing an American Studies degree draw on course offerings from across the university as they explore, analyze, and interpret American culture and society.

The major and the minor in American Studies offer students the flexibility to design a course of study focused on their unique interests and career goals.

**American Studies at UT Dallas**

American Studies majors, in consultation with the program head, construct two concentrations in which the majority of the upper-division coursework for the major is carried out. Each concentration must be interdisciplinary and attentive to historicity, but within those parameters, students have a great deal of latitude to develop individualized programs of study. Possible concentrations include:

- American Legal System
- Gender in American Culture & Society
- American Popular Culture
- Political and Social Movements
- U.S. and the World
- Race and Ethnicity in American Life
- Business in America
- The American Environment
- Media and Communication Studies
- Politics in American Society
- Technology in American Life

Please see our website for the most current information at [utdallas.edu/is/academics/ba-american-studies](http://utdallas.edu/is/academics/ba-american-studies).

The American studies honors program offers the opportunity for advanced scholarly work and recognition. To earn departmental honors, students must graduate with:

- A 3.9 cumulative GPA
- A 3.9 GPA in designated courses
- A total of 30 hours of credit in required honors courses
- A six-hour internship or three-hour internship with approved coursework

For a full list of courses and descriptions, visit [catalog.utdallas.edu](http://catalog.utdallas.edu).

**Career Opportunities**

A degree in American Studies can prepare students for careers in nonprofit organizations, government, cultural industries, and the media, as well as in the corporate world. The bachelor’s degree in American studies is an excellent preparation for law or graduate school.

The University’s Career Center is an important resource for students pursuing postgraduation employment. Licensed counselors are available to provide strategies for mastering job interviews, writing professional cover letters and resumes and connecting with campus recruiters, among other services.

**Marketable Skills**

Upon successful completion of the BA in American Studies, UT Dallas students will have explored, interpreted, and analyzed American culture, past and present, from an interdisciplinary perspective. This includes:

- Research methods, information literacy, and synthesis of sources.
- Effective oral and written communication tailored for the target audience.
- Problem-solving, critical thinking, and analysis.
- Cultural competency and awareness of diversity issues.
School of Interdisciplinary Studies

The programs of the School of Interdisciplinary Studies (IS) provide students with a broad learning experience. Because of the individualized focus and flexibility, the program is appropriate for both students preparing to enter the workplace and those planning to continue their studies. IS students are encouraged to customize a degree plan using two or more disciplines — a combination of business and the social sciences, for example — or they can tailor degrees in American studies or Healthcare studies around topics of interest.

**Degrees Offered**

- **Bachelor of Arts:** American studies, interdisciplinary studies
- **Bachelor of Science:** Healthcare studies, interdisciplinary studies
- **Master of Arts:** Interdisciplinary studies

**Minors Offered**

If your academic focus leads you elsewhere at UT Dallas, but you would still like to pursue studies in the School of Interdisciplinary Studies, the following minors are available:

- American Studies
- Environmental Studies
- Exercise Sciences
- Gender Studies
- Healthcare Studies

**Internships and Honors**

The School of Interdisciplinary Studies internship program at UT Dallas offers students the opportunity for practical experience in their field of interest:

- Experience in a professional work environment
- Academic credit under faculty supervision
- The chance to try a career or industry before committing to a full-time employment

**Additional Facts**

The University’s Teacher Development Center (TDC) is housed in the School of Interdisciplinary Studies and provides rigorous, university-based coursework with extensive field experience, including student teaching or a supervised postbaccalaureate internship for students interested in making teaching or school administration their career. The TDC offers teacher certification options for both undergraduate and postbaccalaureate students.

The University’s Academic Bridge Program, for which the school is responsible, assists high-potential students who may not have completed a college-track high school curriculum to transition to the academically rigorous environment of UT Dallas.