

AMERICAN STUDIES, BA

FOUR-YEAR DEGREE AND CAREER MAP

for Bulletin Year 2026-2027

As an American Studies major, you will learn about the rich and complex American histories and experiences, within broader U.S. institutions, policies, and cultures. You will sharpen your analytical thinking and communication skills. This degree will provide you with foundation in understanding U.S. society that is translatable to graduate training in academia, law, medicine, and business. An American Studies degree also aligns with in research, government, nonprofit organizations, and more!

Where You'll Go

- A bachelor's degree in American Studies can open many doors for you.
- This degree prepares you for a deep understanding of U.S. history, culture, and experiences.
- You will learn to sharpen your critical thinking and analytical skills.
- An American Studies degree is also a perfect complement to another discipline and will help you stand out as an applicant
- You will have a well-rounded understanding of American society, people, and institutions in any career!

These highly transferable skills can apply to careers in

- Education
- Law
- Government
- Medicine
- Health Professions
- Business
- Nonprofit Organizations

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Your Journey

Your journey at Brooklyn College will prepare you for life after college. Career readiness is more than just attending classes—it's about trying new things, making new connections, and pushing yourself in and outside the classroom. No student path is the same—Brooklyn College helps you build your confidence and capabilities, and prepare for your career ahead.

FIRST YEAR

First Semester Classes	Credits	Expanding Your Horizons Through College Life	Roadmap to Career Readiness
ENGL 1010: English Composition I <i>Pathways</i>	3	- Start building a basic résumé - Visit the Learning Center to see how it can help you achieve academic success - Join a student club - Attend the majors' fair - Meet with American Studies Adviser	- Create a <u>Handshake</u> account - Visit the <u>Magner Center</u> to learn about internships - Attend <u>cultural events</u> around New York City for free with your CUNY ID
Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning <i>Pathways</i>	3		
AMST 1010 or AMST 1001 <i>Pathways Flexible Core</i>	3		
General Elective	3		
General Elective	3		

Second Semester Classes	Credits	Expanding Your Horizons Through College Life	Roadmap to Career Readiness
ENGL 1012: English Composition II <i>Pathways</i>	3	- Attend events sponsored by student clubs - Attend the Magner Career Center <u>Job and Internship Fair and workshops</u> - Explore <u>scholarships, fellowships, and research opportunities</u> - Learn about Study Abroad opportunities - Join or start study group(s) - Meet an American Studies adviser to discuss the major, career paths, and to select music courses	- Create a <u>draft cover letter</u> for internships and fellowships - Explore <u>career options in American Studies</u> - Look for volunteer opportunities in your community - Create a <u>LinkedIn</u> account
Life and Physical Sciences <i>Pathways</i>	3		
World Cultures and Global Issues <i>Pathways Flexible Core</i>	3		
AMST 3000-level or higher course <i>Major</i>	3		
General Elective	3		

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SECOND YEAR

First Semester Classes	Credits	Expanding Your Horizons Through College Life	Roadmap to Career Readiness
Individual and Society <i>Pathways Flexible Core</i>	3	- Identify Potential Spring Research Opportunities, such as Mellon Transfer, and Tow - Explore Study Abroad Opportunities - Visit the Learning Center to see how it can help you achieve academic success - Join a student club - Explore the programs at the Magner Career Center - Explore CUNY-wide Internship Opportunities - Attend the majors' fair - If interested in Graduate School, explore CUNY Pipeline and Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Programs	- Update your résumé Find a Mentor to Meet with Periodically - Participate in an Internship - Identify Summer Research Opportunities - Develop a Network of Contacts through LinkedIn - Meet with Professors and Advisor to Talk about Career Options - Not sure what career(s) interest you? Check out My Next Move
Creative Expression <i>Pathways Flexible Core</i>	3		
AMST 3000-level or higher <i>Major</i>	3		
AMST 3000-level or higher <i>Major</i>	3		
General Elective	3		

Second Semester Classes	Credits	Expanding Your Horizons Through College Life	Roadmap to Career Readiness
Scientific World <i>Pathways Flexible Core</i>	3	- Join Student Professional Club or Organization - Attend Interviewing Workshops - Practice Public Speaking Skills - Apply to Stipends for Unpaid Summer or Fall Internships - Attend Events on Other CUNY Campuses - Meet with American Studies Advisor	- Join a Professional Organization or Pursue Leadership Roles - Use LinkedIn to Market Yourself and Build Professional Relationships - Identify Skills You Need to Build Outside the Classroom - Apply for Summer Internship or Research Opportunities
Creative Expression <i>Pathways</i>	3		
AMST 3000-level or higher <i>Major</i>	3		
AMST 3000-level or higher <i>Major</i>	3		
General Elective	3		

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THIRD YEAR

First Semester Classes	Credits	Expanding Your Horizons Through College Life	Roadmap to Career Readiness
College Option Pathways	3	- Take on Leadership Roles in Clubs or Organizations - Take Part in Research Activities as a RA or Independent Research - Participate in Student Research Showcases (e.g. <u>HSS Expo</u>) - Consider Study Abroad in Winter or Summer Intersessions - Interested in Professional Schools (Law, Medicine, Business)? Contact appropriate advisors. - Attend Magner Center Jobs and Internship Fair - Meet with American Studies Advisor	- Refine Your Resume - Continue to apply for Internships - Research Graduate School or Other Post Graduate Opportunities - Reach Out to Professionals in Your Focus Area(s) for Jobs or to Shadow - Practice Advanced Interview Techniques and Develop “Elevator Pitch” - Schedule a Graduate Audit When Upper Junior (spring)
College Option Pathways	3		
HIST Course for American Studies Major	3		
ENGL Course for American Studies Major	3		
General Elective	3		

Second Semester Classes	Credits	Expanding Your Horizons Through College Life	Roadmap to Career Readiness
College Option Pathways	3	- Volunteer to Serve as Student Representative in Program, School, or College Committee - Identify Faculty to Serve as Reference for Graduate School, Jobs, Internships, Etc. - Attend Graduate School Information Sessions - Meet with American Studies Advisor	- Take on Leadership Roles in Clubs or Organizations - Attend Professional Development and Internship Fairs - Attend a <u>Professional Association Conference</u> - Continue Applying for Internships - Update ePortfolio - Discuss Career Goals with Your Mentor - Reach Out to Professionals in Your Focus Area(s) for Jobs or to Shadow - If Interested in Graduate Schools, Start Preparing to take <u>Exams</u> in Summer or Fall (GRE, LSAT, MCAT, etc) - If Interested in Graduate School, Start Drafting Personal Statement for Completion in Summer
College Option Pathways	3		
HIST Course for American Studies Major	3		
ENGL Course for American Studies Major	3		
General Elective	3		

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FOURTH YEAR

First Semester Classes	Credits	Expanding Your Horizons Through College Life	Roadmap to Career Readiness
Interdisciplinary Course for Majors	3	• Meet with Career Advisor for Job Search • Choose Electives that Diversify your Skillset • Take Part in Student Clubs, Professional Organizations, and Community Groups • Complete Outstanding <u>Major/Gen Ed Requirements</u> • Meet with American Studies Advisor	• Meet with Advisor for Job Search Preparation • Job Search through LinkedIn • Develop a List of Potential Employers • Complete the Process of Applying to Graduate School • Take Graduate School Entrance Exam if Not Completed in Summer • Serve in a Leadership Role on Campus or a Community Organization • Attend a Professional Association Conference • File for Graduation
Interdisciplinary Course for Majors	3		
General Elective	3		
General Elective	3		
General Elective	3		

Second Semester Classes	Credits	Expanding Your Horizons Through College Life	Roadmap to Career Readiness
Interdisciplinary Course for Majors	3	• Take Part in Student Clubs, Professional Organizations, and Community Groups • Participate in Senior Showcase Events, e.g. HSS Expo • Attend Magner Center Events for Graduating Seniors	• Complete Graduation Survey in CUNYFirst Checklist • Actively Apply for Jobs • Attend Networking Events and Career Fairs • Final Interview Preparation • Attend Open House Events at Accepted Graduate Programs (if available) • Continue Applying to Jobs or Graduate School
General Elective	3		
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General Elective	3		

Disclaimer: Career readiness is a flexible journey, not a one-size-fits-all path. This suggested career map is designed to guide you, but if you're a transfer student or need to skip certain tasks, you can easily catch up. Likewise, some students may progress at a faster pace. The purpose of this career map is to help you stay on track while breaking down your goals into manageable steps. Keep in mind that most tasks are ongoing and should be revisited regularly, not completed just once.