UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND’S AMERICAN STUDIES DEGREE combines a liberal arts education with practical skills that last a lifetime. You’ll deeply examine the cultural complexities found in the United States, past and present, and, in the process, gain deep knowledge of its people. Our classes emphasize social affiliations and value systems that give form and meaning to the American experience. Through your studies, you’ll improve as critical and analytical thinkers and skillful communicators—qualities crucial for any career or advanced academic work. Our graduates go on to work in a wide variety of fields, including non-profit management, education, social justice advocacy, business and entertainment.

AMERICAN STUDIES CURRICULUM

The Department of American Studies has more than 100 majors with a growing number of double majors pairing American Studies with journalism, English, sociology, government and politics, among others. American studies majors draw widely on the university’s superb resources in the humanities and social sciences as well as the intellectual and cultural resources of the Baltimore-Washington, D.C. region. The major is highly flexible, allowing students to pursue a wide variety of topics such as literature, American social movements, African American studies, women’s studies and media studies.

SAMPLE COURSE TITLES

- Cultures of Everyday Life in America
- American Culture in the Information Age
- Selected Topics in American Studies; U.S. Latina/o Culture
- Perspectives on Identity and Culture; Growing up Asian American
AMERICAN STUDIES DEGREES IN ACTION

95% of recent ARHU graduates are either working full time, interning or pursuing graduate studies. Here’s where some of our American Studies graduates are working or studying:

- Mundo Verde Public Charter School, Teacher
- Insight Global, Recruiter
- SP+, Marketing Manager
- Long Island University, Writer/TV Producer
- University of Maryland, Education
- Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales, International Relations
- University of Northern Colorado, Sports and Exercise Science

JA’LISA DIXON ’12, AMERICAN STUDIES
English Consultant, Microsoft Asia

“I am so thankful that my degree focused on understanding cultural communication and expression. Part of my job as an English consultant for Microsoft Asia in Shenzhen, China, is seeing and comparing Asian and Western approaches to professional writing. In my work, I am constantly emphasizing the importance of understanding cultural differences when dealing with foreign clients.”

TIPS FOR CAREER SUCCESS

It’s never too early to start planning for your career after graduation. Make an appointment to talk with the University Career Center @ARHU where we’ll work with you to assess your skills, values and interests and use them to help find opportunities that meet your goals. Academic and career advisors will work with you to incorporate internships, living and learning programs, global experiences, research and more into your academic plan. Research shows that having one or more internships drastically increases your ability to land a full-time position upon graduation. Learn more at careers.umd.edu.