

American Studies - What Can I Do With This Degree?

Areas	Employers	Strategies
Government & Politics		
Politician/elected official	Federal, state, & local governments	Take government-related courses
Law	Local, state, & national archives	Volunteer for local/national campaigns
Policy advising/analysis	Foreign service	Get involved in campus political/historical organizations
International affairs/relations specialist	Peace Corps	
Research	Law firms	Develop critical thinking and analytical skills
City/town management	Campaigns, political parties	Choose an area of American Studies to focus on and become an "expert" in that area
Regional planning	Americorps Programs (pending govt funding)	
Foreign service	Capitol Hill	
Education		
Teaching Public or Private (K-12)	Elementary/High Schools	Look up public teaching requirements in your state
Professor	Colleges/Universities	Masters required for library science
Historian	Independent Educational Companies	Ph.D required for college teaching
Librarian	Libraries	Learn how to develop curriculums & workshops and to use multimedia
Coaching	Museums	
Higher Educ Administration		Become an "expert" in a particular subject related to American Studies
Non-profit		
Archives maintenance	Museums	Volunteer or complete internships with nonprofit orgs in the area.
Community organizing/developing	Sociological/Anthropological research	
Urban planning & renewal	Historical Societies	Take classes in management & organizational development.
Curator	Public interest advocacy groups	
Research	Research organizations & think-tanks	See the travel/tourism section for more ideas.
Social Work	NGO's	
Development & Fundraising	Hospital Administration	
Communications/Media/Journalism		
Culture/society reporter	Broadcasting corporations	Write for campus publications dealing with American culture & society.
Magazine/newspaper columnist	Magazine/newspaper companies	
Editor or copy editor	Publishing companies	Develop excellent grammar, writing, & oral communication skills
Documentary production	National, local & satellite radio networks	
Publishing/Editing	Public Television	
Marketing	TV stations- major, commercial, local	Submit articles to local tourism publications.
Journalism- Radio, Print, TV, etc...	Communications Firms	
Filmmaking: screenwriting, producing, etc.	Advertising or Public Relations Companies,	Read American Studies-related journals & publications

	Independent or Commercial Film Industry	for latest news and research.
Business		
Marketing/public relations	Advertising/Marketing companies	Take classes focused on studying societal trends & research classes.
Insurance agent	Communications companies	
Customer/client services	Insurance companies: life/car/health	Develop excellent computer skills.
Human Resources	Investment firms	
International relations	Any company that serves American clientele	Take business classes- management, finance, business law, marketing, computer tech.
Imports/Exports		
Travel & Tourism		
Tour or museum guide	Historical tours	Take summer & part time jobs at local tourist attractions/historical sights.
Travel writer	Travel Agencies	
Culture and arts - promotion and sales	Foreign or domestic travel publications	Gain knowledge in hospitality, management, public speaking, and other related areas.
Exhibit design	Museums	
Conservationism	National historical sights	
Park ranger		
General Information		
<p>Think about what part of American Studies appeals to you (history, sociology, anthropology, research and reading, debate or presentation...) to help you narrow your focus to a specific area of American Studies that you would most like to work in.</p> <p>Take classes related to the career areas you are interested in.</p> <p>Complete a minor in a specific area such as business administration, political science, education, etc that applies to your career of interest.</p> <p>Develop related skills such as effective writing, critical analysis, research, interdisciplinary thinking, curiosity/inquisitiveness.</p> <p>Complete internships in areas you are interested in to gain practical experience.</p>		