Doctor of Philosophy in American Studies

Course Requirements
The program is built upon research and intensive coursework that will normally require four years of full-time work. Students must complete a minimum of 60 credit hours post-baccalaureate, of which at least 18 must be dissertation credits.

All students are required to take AMST 501 Methods in American Studies and AMST 502 Research in American Studies. Additional coursework will be selected from by the student in conjunction with his or her committee chair and committee members.

Major Field
All students must declare a major field of emphasis, by the third semester of study. The major field will normally require at least 12 credits of coursework. The major fields are:

- American Arts
- American History
- American Literature
- American Pluralism
- Public History

Supporting Area
All students must declare a supporting area, which will normally be acquired through three courses (9 credits) and a four-hour written examination administered by the supporting area adviser. The supporting area will be a thematic field, for example, Native American Studies, Technology and Culture, Women’s Studies.

Foreign Language Requirement
PhD students are required to demonstrate reading knowledge of at least one foreign language. Competency will determined by an examination administered by the program, normally in conjunction with the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures. The foreign language requirement must be completed successfully before a student can present the dissertation proposal.

Financial Support
Currently, the only form of financial support available through the program is the Graduate Teaching Assistantship. A small number of teaching assistantships will normally be awarded each academic year, based on merit, as determined by the Graduate Committee. Interested students should apply for a teaching assistantship by submitting a letter of interest to the Program Director.

For information about general scholarship opportunities and Financial Aid, please see the “resources for students” link.