

AMERICAN STUDIES

American studies emerged as an academic movement shortly after World War II. With the United States becoming a world leader at a time when growing specialization was fragmenting knowledge and communication, many American scholars felt compelled to integrate information and insights from numerous sources in an effort to understand what was “American” about America.

The American studies program operates on the assumption that all aspects of America’s intellectual, artistic, and material culture are valuable sources of information and insights about American civilization. American studies is interdisciplinary in nature because it draws from a number of academic disciplines covering many facets of American civilization to understand American culture.

Career Opportunities

American studies educates you for a wide range of careers. In particular, graduates from our program are prepared for careers in historic preservation, journalism, law, library services, and museums. Many American studies students enter the fields of business management, public administration, and sales. Additional academic study is necessary for careers in some of these areas.

Graduates of the department have found employment with the following organizations:

- Chester County Historical Society
- Cahners (formerly Chilton Company publishers)
- Lincoln Financial Services
- Options for Women
- Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
- Philadelphia Inquirer
- QVC Network
- Scott Paper Company (Kimberly-Clark)
- Siemens
- Team Defense Project

Graduates of the department have pursued advanced degrees at the following:

- Columbia University
- George Washington University School of Law
- Pennsylvania State University
- Temple University Law School
- University of Delaware
- University of Pennsylvania

Undergraduate Degree

Bachelor of Arts in History with a Concentration in American Studies. The American studies program seeks to understand the interrelatedness of the American experience. The program deals with the relationships of ideas and actions, forms and values, and assumptions and aspirations by incorporating material from such academic disciplines as anthropology, art history, history, literature, music history, and material culture.

Minor

The American studies minor is designed for those who wish to gain an understanding of the ideas, principles, values, and forms of American civilization while pursuing a different academic major.

Typical Courses

- American Civilization
- American Material Culture
- Manhood in America
- Myths and Modernization

Special Study Opportunities

An American studies internship offers you the opportunity to work with various institutions, agencies, and companies, including architectural firms, environmental agencies, historic preservation offices, historical societies, museums, newspapers, and video producers.

UNDERGRADUATE FACT SHEET

Faculty

Since the American studies program requires a broad range of American topics courses from as many as eight academic departments, a large number of professors participate in the program. You can obtain a complete listing of faculty and their academic qualifications for this program from the American Studies coordinator.

For More Information

American Studies Coordinator

500 Main Hall

West Chester University

West Chester, PA 19383

610-436-2201

Web page: http://www.wcupa.edu/_ACADEMICS/sch_cas/am_stu/

Undergraduate Catalog: http://www.wcupa.edu/_information/official.documents/undergrad.catalog/

About West Chester University

A comprehensive, public institution, West Chester University offers high-quality undergraduate and graduate degree programs in more than 100 subject areas, as well as certification and certificate programs. As one of the largest members of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, West Chester offers a full and rewarding educational experience as well as reasonable tuition.

With a rich heritage dating back to the 19th century, West

Chester University was founded in 1871 as West Chester Normal School for the purpose of training teachers for the Commonwealth's newly established public schools. In 1960, West Chester State Teachers College expanded its programs to include liberal arts and graduate degrees and, as a result, dropped "Teachers" from its name. In 1983, West Chester State College became one of the 14 institutions in the State System of Higher Education. Along with its university status, the school acquired a new system of governance and the opportunity to expand its degree programs.

Today, more than 15,400 graduate and undergraduate students, along with 1,500 faculty and staff, study and work on the 406-acre campus. Situated in the Borough of West Chester, the campus is a picturesque mix of Gothic, Victorian, and modern architecture with pleasant, tree-shaded walks.

Strategically located at the center of the mid-Atlantic corridor between New York City and Washington, D.C., West Chester is just 25 miles west of Philadelphia and 17 miles north of Wilmington.

Information on Admission

Office of Admissions

Emil H. Messikomer Hall, 100 West Rosedale Ave.

West Chester University, West Chester, PA 19383

610-436-3411 • Toll-free: 1-877-315-2165

E-mail: ugadmiss@wcupa.edu

WCU home page: www.wcupa.edu

Facebook: www.facebook.com/wcupa

