

MAAS dual degree concentration FAQ for students

What is a 4+1 dual degree concentration?

4+1 dual degree concentrations are programs offered in AFRI, LITT, HIST, PHIL, POLS and SOAN. A 4+1 concentration allows undergraduate majors in these programs to earn up to 12 credits during their senior year that count towards both the B.A. degree and the M.A. degree in American Studies. The M.A. in American Studies is a 30-credit program. Thus, a 4+1 concentration makes it possible to complete the M.A. with one additional year of postgraduate study.

What are the benefits to students of a 4+1 dual degree concentration?

Undergraduate students can broaden knowledge, strengthen skills, and practice integrative, interdisciplinary approaches of American Studies by taking advanced courses in their senior year – and apply those credits toward an M.A. degree credential at a substantial cost savings. The American Studies program offers core and elective courses, independent studies, internships and thesis options, and opportunities to work closely with faculty and campus-based and regional organizations in areas of history, arts, culture, politics and society.

What are the requirements to declare a dual degree concentration?

Students may declare the concentration at any time, which will be reflected in Degree Works; however, students may not take graduate level (5000-level) courses until they have earned 96+ credits (senior-level) and maintained a 3.2 program GPA. Prior to earning 96 credits, students are encouraged to take GAH 2275 – Introduction to American Studies and other American Studies-related elective and General Studies courses. Individual programs may require satisfactory completion of certain core courses to matriculate into the dual degree concentration. Please see your B.A. program requirements for more information.

What specific courses for undergraduate, dual degree students may be applied to the M.A. in American Studies?

Students may apply up to 12 credits (4 courses) toward the M.A. in American Studies during their senior year through a combination of a.) specially-designated, undergraduate capstone and/or thesis courses; and b.) two core graduate courses (AMST 5000 and AMST 5001) and/or additional AMST 5000-level electives or shared-space electives.¹

What specially-designated senior capstones/thesis may be applied to the M.A. graduate degree?

Each undergraduate dual degree concentration offers qualifying credits toward the M.A. in the form of a senior capstone course(s) and/or a thesis. These 3/4000-level undergraduate capstones and/or thesis credits, once completed, can be applied to the M.A. degree requirements.²

¹ A shared space elective is an advanced, upper-division course taught by MAAS program faculty and coded both as an undergraduate course and as AMST 5000-level graduate course. Undergraduate and graduate students share the same classroom but are subject to different requirements.

² AFRI 4601 (Senior Seminar); HIST 4690/91 (Methods/Thesis); LITT 4610 (Senior Seminar/Thesis); SOCY/ANTH 4685 (Senior Seminar). Each undergraduate capstone is applied to the B.A. as a 4-credit course and the M.A. as a 3-credit course. *Undergraduate capstones/thesis must be taught by an American Studies core faculty member in order to qualify for graduate credit in the MAAS program (unless otherwise approved by the MAAS Chair).*

What graduate level (5000-level) courses should be taken in senior year (96+ credits)?

Unless otherwise permitted by approval from the chair, students enrolled in the dual degree concentration must take, during their senior year, both of the core required American Studies courses, **AMST 5000 (Proseminar)** and/or **AMST 5001 (Research Methods in American Studies)**. Students may also take an additional AMST 5000-level elective during their senior year. Students may not take advanced 5000-level AMST electives without completing (or concurrently enrolling in) either AMST 5000 in fall terms, or AMST 5001 in spring terms.

What are the costs and benefits of the dual degree concentration?

Undergraduate capstone and thesis courses are included in Stockton's flat rate tuition. Graduate-level, 5000-level courses taken as an undergraduate student are also billed within the undergraduate flat-rate tuition, subject to a current (2023) graduate surcharge of \$100 per credit (\$300 per course). This represents a substantial savings compared to the regular graduate tuition rate for the same courses.

Is financial aid available in the fifth-year of the dual degree concentration?

Beside university, state or federal aid or scholarship awards a student may acquire, the Master of Arts in American Studies (MAAS) also offers graduate assistantships (GAs) each semester to qualified students. These competitive awards typically constitute three (3) credits in tuition remission (approximately \$2,343 as of 2023) in exchange for assisting a MAAS faculty member on research or special projects. Each credit in assistantship aid requires 1.5 hours of commitment per week for 15 weeks (i.e., a 3-credit assistantship translates to approximately 4.5 hours of expectation per week). For dual degree concentration students, these awards are available only after matriculation to the fifth year. For more information on financial aid and scholarships for Stockton graduate students, see the webpage of the Office of Financial Aid for Graduate Students, <https://stockton.edu/financial-aid/sources-of-financial-aid/graduate-sources.html>.

What are the differences between program capstone/thesis courses, shared-space electives and traditional graduate courses?

Program capstone/thesis courses are coded with a program acronym and a course number (e.g., AFRI 4601, HIST 4690, LITT 4610, POLS 4695, PHIL 4600, SOCY/ANTH 4685). These are undergraduate courses and/or projects that qualify for credit toward the Master of Arts in American Studies at no extra cost.

Shared-space electives are coded with both an undergraduate and graduate course number (e.g. ANTH 3623/AMST 5023; LITT 3208/AMST 5038) and are taken by two populations in the same classroom space. Generally, up to five seats are reserved for graduate students and dual degree concentration students who register under the AMST 5000-level coding. Faculty teaching these courses create two different curricula for each group of students. Students who take a shared-space elective at the 3/4000-level (undergraduate), and those who take it at the 5000-level (graduate), are subject to different requirements depending on their registration status.

Traditional graduate courses are 15-seat seminars coded only as AMST 5000-level courses (core courses or electives). Dual degree students may enroll in these courses alongside traditional graduate students, including AMST 5000 and AMST 5001 during senior year.

I am an undergraduate dual degree student trying to register for a 5000-level shared space or graduate course. Why can't I do it on my own through the registration system?

Students with fewer than 128 credits (i.e., undergraduates) cannot manually enroll for graduate courses. All dual degree students must work with their preceptors and the MAAS chair to register for 5000-level courses.

If 5000-level shared space and graduate seminars are 3-credit courses, how will that affect my undergraduate program's total credits requirements?

All dual credit courses count as 4 credits when applied to the B.A. degree, and 3 credits when applied to the graduate M.A. degree.