

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 that allow undergraduate majors to earn up to 12 credits during their senior year that count both towards their major B.A. degree and the M.A. degree in American Studies. The M.A. in American Studies is a 30-credit program. This means it is possible to complete the M.A. in one additional year of postgraduate study.

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

The MAAS 4+1 Dual Degree program provides students the opportunity to earn an advanced degree credential at a substantial cost savings. Undergraduate seniors can take advanced courses on interdisciplinary topics and approaches related to their areas of interest, broadening knowledge, strengthening skills, and fostering the values of integrative practice through American Studies. American Studies offers courses, independent studies, internships and thesis options, and works closely with numerous campus-based and regional organizations in areas of history, arts, culture, and politics.

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 may elect (and are encouraged) to take GAH 2275 – Introduction to American Studies. Further, 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 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.) selected program-based capstone or thesis courses; and b.) one or more core graduate courses (AMST 5000 and AMST 5001); and/or additional AMST 5000-level electives or shared-space electives.¹

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

Each undergraduate 4+1 Dual Degree concentration offers 3 credits applicable toward the M.A. with successful completion of their program capstone course and/or a thesis.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); PHIL 4600 (Senior Seminar); POLS 4695 (Senior Seminar); 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 other graduate level (5000-level) courses may be taken in senior year (96+ credits)?

Students enrolled in the dual degree concentration must take, during their senior year, one or both of the core required American Studies courses, **AMST 5000 (Proseminar)** and/or **AMST 5001 (Research Methods in American Studies)**. Students may also take additional AMST 5000-level electives during their senior year concurrently with, or after completing, AMST 5000 (fall) or AMST 5001 (spring).

What are the costs 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 subject to a surcharge of \$100 per credit, or \$300 per course – a substantial savings compared to the graduate tuition rate for the same courses.

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

Besides university, state or federal aid or scholarship awards a student may acquire independently, 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 \$2,434) in exchange for assisting a MAAS faculty member on research or special projects. 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). 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 an undergraduate and graduate course number (e.g. ANTH 3623/AMST 5023; LITT 3208/AMST 5038) and taken by two populations in the same classroom space. Faculty teaching these courses create two different curricula for each group of students who share the same classroom. Generally, up to five seats are reserved for graduate students and 4+1 dual degree students.

Traditional graduate courses are 5000-level seminar courses with 15 seats. 4+1 dual degree students enroll in these courses alongside traditional graduate students.

Why can't I register for courses in Banner on my own?

Students with fewer than 128 credits (i.e., undergraduates) cannot manually enroll for graduate courses. Dual degree students work closely with 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?

As noted above (footnote 1), 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.