



# What can I do with a major in **AMERICAN STUDIES** from Valparaiso University?

## Description of major:

An opportunity to study the whole civilization of the United States – its fundamental ideas, institutions and symbolic expressions as these have developed over time. This common subject matter is examined through a variety of methods and materials that reach across traditional disciplines, such as social sciences, the fine arts, and the humanities.

## Relevant skills for an AMERICAN STUDIES major:

- ◆ Basic reading, writing and analytical skills
- ◆ Compiling and researching information
- ◆ Flexibility and broad understanding
- ◆ Innovative thinking
- ◆ Interest in social, cultural and economic aspects of the United States
- ◆ Organizing and synthesizing information
- ◆ Seeing inter-relations between different phenomena
- ◆ Seeing patterns of meaning

## Sample work activities for Graduates in AMERICAN STUDIES (some may require an advanced degree)

- Archive Management
- Attorney
- Community Activist
- Curator
- Federal Government Worker
- Historical Preservationist
- Lobbyist
- Peer Counselor
- Political Campaigner
- Professor, college or university
- Public Management
- Social Worker
- Teacher, secondary education
- Urban Planning
- Writer

## Potential hiring institutions for AMERICAN STUDIES majors:

- ◆ All media, both electronic & print
- ◆ Art Galleries
- ◆ Corporations & Businesses
- ◆ Federal, State, and Local government
- ◆ Local, State & U.S. Historical Societies
- ◆ Museums
- ◆ Public & Private agencies
- ◆ Public & Private foundations
- ◆ School Systems

## Area of further education for AMERICAN STUDIES majors:

- Divinity Studies
- Law
- Public History

## **Sources of additional information for AMERICAN STUDIES majors:**

- ◆ VU American Studies: <http://www.valpo.edu/registrar/catalog/02amst.htm>
- ◆ American Studies Association: includes employment opportunities, graduate programs, fellowships, grants, and conferences. <http://www.press.jhu.edu/associations/asa/about.html>
- ◆ American Studies Web: An extensive listing of links to all types of resources on and for American Studies. <http://www.georgetown.edu/crossroads/curriculum.html>

### **VU Career Center Resource Library Materials:**

- *100 Best Nonprofits to Work for*
- *100 Jobs in Words*
- *Book of U.S. Government Jobs: Where they Are, What's Available, and How to Get one*
- *Career Opportunities in Education*
- *Career Opportunities in Law and the Legal Industry*
- *Career Opportunities in Politics, Government & Activism*
- *Career Opportunities in Travel & Tourism*
- *Careers for Bookworms & Other Literary Types*
- *Careers for Culture Lovers & Other Artsy Types*
- *Careers for History Buffs*
- *Careers for Introverts & Other Solitary Types*
- *Careers for Travel Buffs & Other Restless Types*
- *Current Jobs for Graduates (Job Bulletin)*
- *Education for Action: Undergraduate and Graduate Programs that Focus on Social Change*
- *Essays that Worked for Business Schools*
- *Essays that Worked for Law Schools*
- *Getting Money for Graduate School*
- *GMAT 2003*
- *Graduate Admissions Essays: Write Your Way into the Graduate School of Your Choice*
- *Graduate Programs in Arts and Architecture*
- *Graduate Programs in Education*
- *Graduate Programs in Humanities*
- *Graduate Schools in the U.S*
- *GRE Exam 2003*
- *Great Jobs for History Majors*
- *Great Jobs for Liberal Arts Majors*
- *Great Jobs for Political Science Majors*
- *Great Jobs for Sociology Majors*
- *Guide to America's Federal Jobs*
- *Guide to Homeland Security Careers*
- *Harvard Business School Guide to Careers in the Nonprofit Sector*
- *Harvard College Guide to Careers in Government & Politics*
- *How to Write a Winning Personal Statement for Graduate and Professional School*
- *Inside Secrets to Finding a Career in Travel*
- *LSAT 2003*
- *Opportunities in Government Careers*
- *Opportunities in Law Careers*
- *Opportunities in Library and Information Science*
- *Opportunities in Social Science Careers*
- *Opportunities in Travel Careers*
- *Peterson's Game Plan for Getting into Graduate School*
- *Peterson's Game Plan for Getting into Law School*
- *Peterson's Graduate & Professional Programs, an Overview*
- *Peterson's Graduate Programs in Business, Education, Health, Information Studies, Law & Social Work*
- *Peterson's Graduate Programs in the Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences*
- *Resumes for Social Service Careers*
- *and others!*

### **For more information about majoring in AMERICAN STUDIES, contact:**

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**For more questions about your career decisions, please make an appointment with a VU Career Counselor by calling 464-5005, stopping by the Career Center in Alumni Hall or e-mailing us at [Career.Center@valpo.edu](mailto:Career.Center@valpo.edu)**