

Contact: Rachel Boon

REQUEST TO TERMINATE THE BACHELOR OF ARTS IN AMERICAN STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Action Requested: Approve the request by the University of Iowa to terminate the Bachelor of Arts in American Studies in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

The Council of Provosts and Board office staff reviewed the proposal and recommend approval.

Description of program. The BA in American studies program provides broad training in cultural analysis and communication. It is comprised of courses that make sense of the contemporary world, both nationally and internationally, using a variety of approaches to the study of culture, including film, media studies and the digital humanities; art, theater and literature; and racial and ethnic studies, gender studies and history.

Reason for proposed termination. The largest number of American Studies majors in the past five years was AY20-21 at 13 students. In the fall of 2024, only six students were enrolled. Given declining enrollment, the program is no longer sustainable.

Effect on current students. Students who are currently declared in the American Studies major will be able to finish their program of study.

Application, Enrollment and Completion Trends.

	Applications	Enrollment	Completions
AY23-24	n/a	9	3
AY22-23	n/a	7	2
AY21-22	n/a	9	4
AY20-21	n/a	13	2
AY19-20	n/a	10	1

Impact on resources. The impact on resources will be minimal. Although the major will be discontinued, many of its courses are cross-listed with other programs and will continue to be available for students to select within those majors. Any cost savings will be returned to the college.

Impact on workforce. Workforce needs in the state are not expected to be affected.

Alternative programs. Students who may have previously studied American studies may be guided to other majors in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Effective date of termination. Upon approval by the Board no new students will be admitted to the major. Students currently enrolled will receive support to complete their program of study.