

Fall 2023 — Asian American Studies at UMass Boston —April 2023 draft

Asian American Studies at UMass Boston – *celebrating 36+ years of campus/community impact*

UMass Boston is the only research university in New England designated and funded by the U.S. Department of Education since 2010 as an Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution (AANAPISI). In 2009, APAs for Progress, selected UMB as one of the 10 Best Colleges for AAPI students in the US. In 2022, the Asian American Studies Program celebrated its 35th anniversary.

The Asian American Studies (AsAmSt) Program offers intellectually-challenging, emotionally-engaging, culturally-responsive instruction in the classroom with holistic practices of mentoring, community-building, service-learning, and advocacy to address the academic and social needs of students as well as the critical capacity-building needs of local Asian American communities. AsAmSt is open to students from any UMass Boston college and provides relevant preparation for professionals and practitioners in education, counseling, health, community development, business, and other fields affected by Asian American demographic growth. Graduate students from any area who have Asian American Studies interests can serve as teaching/research assistants, mentors to undergraduates, and project developers for the program.

Recognized as a national model, the program offers the most Asian American Studies courses, faculty, and community linkages of any public or private university in New England. Our alumni include teachers, social workers, health care providers, business entrepreneurs, and leaders of local Asian community organizations. By grounding our curriculum, teaching, and applied research in the local/global realities of metro Boston's communities and by respecting the knowledge and bilingual/bicultural skills that students bring to the classroom, the AsAmSt Program creates powerful learning environments for all students to gain critical understandings of the historical experiences, voices, contemporary issues, and contributions of diverse Asian populations in the U.S.

Completing a six-course program-of-study concentration in Asian American Studies

Students with any major from any UMass Boston college can also complete a six-course program-of-study in Asian American Studies (comparable to a minor or concentration) based on completing three 200-level AsAmSt courses and three upper-level (300- or 400-level) AsAmSt courses.

During 2022-2023, twenty students are graduating with the AsAmSt program-of-study along with their undergraduate BA/BS degrees in a wide range of majors. Examples of AsAmSt graduating student and alumni profiles are available here: https://www.umb.edu/asamst/asamst_graduations

Students with serious interests in designing a 10-course individual major in Asian American Studies through the College of Education and Human Development at UMass Boston are strongly encouraged to contact the AsAmSt Program as early as possible.

For more information and individualized advising, visit the Asian American Studies Program in Wheatley Building, second floor, Room 097 (W-2-097) or contact Dr. Peter Kiang, AsAmSt Program Director via peter.kiang@umb.edu