

ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES

College of Letters & Science

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Department Office

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Department Background

Born out of social and global justice movements of the late 1960s, the Department of Asian American Studies at UC Davis is one of the very first programs in Asian American studies established nationally. The Department provides unique learning opportunities about the historical and contemporary experiences of Asian Americans in local and global contexts. We seek to develop and advance knowledge about the diversity of Asian American populations as immigrants and refugees, as ethnic minorities, and as a racial group in U.S. society. In examining the complexity of Asian American experiences, we foster critical thinking and comprehensive analyses of formations of race, ethnicity, class, gender, religion, and sexuality that are manifested not only in the United States but also in other regions and nations across the globe.

A distinct feature of our department is our emphasis on applied knowledge. Our curriculum, for instance, encourages students to work in close collaboration with community groups that advance social justice and transformative social change. Many of our faculty are community-engaged scholars who work closely with Asian American and Pacific Islander (API) organizations and help to facilitate linkages between students and the broader API community. Moreover, the faculty and staff in our department are consistently recognized for their strong mentorship and close engagement with students' academic and personal growth. Our faculty and courses also focus on diverse Asian American populations as we seek to be inclusive of underrepresented Asian American groups and highlight cutting-edge research. Finally, our department has close relationships with its alumni who also help to support students and the overall curriculum.

The Department houses the George Kagiwada Library and Digital Media Lab. This unique library holds a vast collection of scholarly texts in Asian American studies as well as an archive of Asian American community newspapers and other primary source publications not found elsewhere. The Digital Media Lab helps to support course-based as well as individual students' independent projects such as podcasts, videos and the like.

- Asian American Studies, Bachelor of Arts (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/departments-programs-degrees/asian-american-studies/asian-american-studies-ab/>)
- Asian American Studies, Minor (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/departments-programs-degrees/asian-american-studies/asian-american-studies-minor/>)
- Social, Ethnic & Gender Relations, Minor (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/departments-programs-degrees/asian-american-studies/social-ethnic-gender-relations-minor/>)