What can I do with an ASE degree? The simple answer to this question is “Anything.” Graduates in American Studies and Ethnicity have pursued a wide variety of careers, including teaching, diversity training and consulting, as well as working with community-based and non-profit organizations, labor unions, and elected officials. Many have pursued graduate study in the humanities, social sciences, law, journalism, urban planning, and other fields. Our students are equipped for and excel in professions that value critical thinking and social accountability.

Find Out More

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One of the things that has to be faced is the process of waiting to change the system, how much we have got to do to find out who we are, where we have come from and where we are going.

— Ella Baker
What is American Studies and Ethnicity?
American Studies and Ethnicity (ASE) is an innovative, interdisciplinary department that explores the history, culture, politics, and institutions of the Americas and the world, with a particular focus on communities of color in and beyond the United States. ASE draws on approximately 75 core and affiliate faculty from across USC campus, enabling students to gain a thoroughly dynamic education and prepare for a rapidly changing world.

ASE Student Resources
The diverse needs and goals of our students spurred the creation of ASE Club, a student-led organization that hosts programs for undergraduates across USC. Previous ASE Club events include the “Uncommon Conversations” series and a Black History Month dinner/discussion led by a local food justice organization.

ASE also offers a number of research opportunities for students. Our faculty regularly serve as mentors for students in programs including:

- HSBC Fellows Program
- McNair Scholars Program
- Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship (MMUF)
- Summer Undergraduate Research Fund (SURF)

We also encourage and support students to study abroad. In order to recognize student excellence, ASE installed the Ninfa Sanchez Memorial Prize, which is awarded annually to the best undergraduate student paper in ASE.

Undergraduate Programs of Study

ASE MAJORS, MINORS & HONORS PROGRAM
Undergraduate students have the opportunity to choose from a number of majors and minors within American Studies and Ethnicity:

**BACHELOR OF ARTS MAJORS**
- American Studies and Ethnicity
- African American Studies
- Asian American Studies
- Chicano/Latino Studies

**MINORS**
- Jewish American Studies
- Popular Culture

All four ASE majors complete a minimum of ten courses, including three required courses:

- Introduction to American Studies (AMST 200),
- Junior Seminar (AMST 350), and
- Senior Seminar (AMST 498).

Students can choose electives from three categories: History, Literature and Culture, and Social and Political Issues. Minors complete AMST 200, 350, and three electives at the 300 level or above.

Honors students do not take AMST 498, instead enrolling in a year-long sequence: Research Methods (AMST 492) and Senior Honors Thesis (AMST 498).