Research & Scholarship

Students and faculty are engaged in research endeavors that attempt to highlight and critically interrogate issues that impact Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.

Through the research methods course and participation in undergraduate research programs like the McNair Scholars, students have examined everything from Asian American community-based spaces, Pacific Islander experiences and representations, to API participation in art, music, and performance. Several students have gone on to pursue graduate degrees in fields such as Asian American Studies, Education, Ethnic Studies, History, and Social Work.

Faculty have published articles, books, reports, art and poetry for multiple audiences. Faculty have written and presented their work on a wide array of topics, including but not limited to Asian American aesthetics and literature; equity and diversity issues in education; food, culture, and public health; gender and sexuality; militarization and undocumented immigration; multiracial/multiracial identity development; pedagogy and social movements; and race, space, and redevelopment. Many have received financial support and recognition for their scholarship.

Community

Asian American Studies, as a discipline, originated out of community activism and remains committed to community engagement. Students, faculty, and alumni are involved in Asian American and Pacific Islander community-based endeavors at the campus, local and national levels. Students, faculty, and alumni have organized around issues including but not limited to college access and affordability, gentrification and redevelopment, LGBTQI rights, multiracial identities, obesity and diabetes prevention, and undocumented immigrant rights.

Some of the organizations and projects in which we have participated include the Asian American and Pacific Islander Research Coalition, API Equality - Los Angeles, Ô-Môi, Asian Pacific Islander Obesity Prevention Alliance, Tuesday Night Café, Chinatown Coalition for Equitable Development, Chinese Historical Society, the Dreams Alliance, Filipino American National Historical Society, Japanese American Citizens League, Summer Activist Training, Thai Community Development Center, and countless other efforts.

Students interested in Asian American Studies can draw from these community networks and pursue opportunities to apply their classroom skills to community work and become life-long promoters of community empowerment and social change. Please check out our website for updates on our activities.

Contact AAS
340 Jerome Richfield
Northridge, CA 91330-8251
(818) 677-4966
www.csun.edu/AsianAmericanStudies

Committed to community, critical thinking and social justice
What Can I Do With a Degree in AAS?

The question you should ask is “what CAN’T you do with a degree in AAS?!”

A background in AAS prepares individuals to become critical, compassionate, and engaged community members. Many of our graduates have gone on to work for community organizations, local government, and the private sector, in which they serve as representatives of and provide voice for Asian American and Pacific Islander communities, other communities of color and underrepresented groups.

Students have also gone on to pursue graduate degrees and careers such as K-12 educators, higher education faculty and practitioners, lawyers, and social workers. Some of our graduates have also become art and cultural producers, journalists, or professionals in the culinary arts, health/fitness, and medical fields.

Teaching & Curriculum

The Department of Asian American Studies is comprised of almost two dozen part-time and full-time faculty members. Faculty have masters and doctoral degrees from various fields, including American Studies, Asian American Studies, Cultural Studies, Education, English, Ethnic Studies, Geography, Psychology, and Sociology. Several of the faculty have been recognized for their excellence in teaching and mentorship, and have received honors such as the Extraordinary Service Award, Preeminent Scholarly Publication Award, Judge Julian Beck Learning-Centered Grant, Outstanding Mentorship Award, and Polished Apple Award. The faculty members are committed to providing meaningful faculty-student interactions and strive to develop mentoring relationships with students during both college and life after CSUN.

AAS offers more than 30 courses – one of the most comprehensive AAS curriculum available in the California State University system. Students learn about a wide variety of topics, ranging from race and racism, history and immigration, urbanization, politics and law, ethnic and multiracial communities, gender and sexuality, to literature and pop culture. Many of the courses fulfill university general education requirements.

Students have the opportunity to pursue a major (42 units/14 classes), double major (30 units/10 classes), or minor (24 units/8 classes) in AAS. All programs of study are designed to accommodate students from diverse educational backgrounds, including those who identify as first-generation college students, low-income, historically underrepresented, and/or transfer and returning students.

For more information, please contact the Department Chair.