Asian American Studies Program: Community-Centered Commitments and Pathways in the AsAmSt Curriculum

Asian American Studies Program, University of Massachusetts Boston

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UMass Boston offers the most Asian American Studies courses, faculty, and community linkages of any university in New England. Through culturally-responsive instruction in the classroom and holistic practices of mentoring, community-building, service-learning, and advocacy, we address the social and academic needs of students as well as the critical capacity-building needs of local Asian American communities. Our alumni include teachers, social workers, health care providers, business entrepreneurs, and leaders of local Asian American community organizations where we sustain vital, long-term partnerships.

By grounding our curriculum, teaching, and applied research in the complex realities of local Asian American 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 understanding about the historical experiences, voices, contemporary issues, and contributions of diverse Asian populations in the U.S.

Nearly every AsAmSt course in the curriculum includes relevant community-focused content. The program also provides resources and opportunities for internships, service-learning, organizing and advocacy, documentation, and applied research each year.

UMass Boston is funded by the U.S. Department of Education as an Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution (AANAPISI) and is recognized by APAs for Progress as one of the ten Best Colleges for AAPI students in the U.S.