INTRODUCTION TO THE MAJOR

African American Studies exposes students to the social, political, and cultural history of African-descended people in the modern world. While its primary focus is on the United States, the program places African Americans within a broader global dialogue about the evolving function of race.

The Department of African American Studies offers a major and minor in African American Studies, as well as a joint minor in Race and the Law with the Department of Ethnic Studies.

THE MAJOR CURRICULUM

Along with three lower division courses, students in the African American Studies major will complete eight courses focused on black intellectual thought, colonialism and slavery, and research. Additionally, each student will work with their advisor to choose a concentration area. Students will also complete a senior capstone course that guides majors in the process of consolidating their intellectual experience as they work toward carving out the next stage of their professional lives.

“I initially sought out this major in an attempt to learn more about myself. In turn, I actually found myself, I found knowledge, I found the world, and I found peace.”

– Kristin Therese Jones, African American Studies & Rhetoric major

AMPLIFY YOUR MAJOR

- Apply to the African American Theme Program
- Get involved in a student organization such as the Black Student Union
- Experience life off campus with study abroad or a semester at a HBCU
- Complete a summer minor in Race and the Law
- Join the Clark Institute, a community of engaged scholars of African American Studies
### AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES DESIGN YOUR JOURNEY

**Bachelor of Arts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FIRST YEAR</th>
<th>SECOND YEAR</th>
<th>THIRD YEAR</th>
<th>FOURTH YEAR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Explore your major</strong></td>
<td><strong>Discover your passions</strong></td>
<td><strong>Focus on upper division requirements and electives</strong></td>
<td><strong>Complete AFRICAM 195 during fall semester</strong></td>
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<td>Meet with your major and college advisor to discuss your academic plans. Familiarize yourself with major and college requirements. Start on the lower division requirements (AFRICAM 4A, 5A and 5B). Consider taking an African language like AFRICAM 11A: Elementary Swahili.</td>
<td>Get involved with a student organization like the Black Student Union. Join a student organization such as the Black Student Union. Check out resources from African American Student Development. Join a student organization such as the Black Student Union.</td>
<td>Meet with your major advisor to discuss your elective cluster or area of concentration. Start thinking about your senior capstone course (AFRICAM 195). Ask the major advisor about the African American Studies honors program.</td>
<td>Do a degree check to ensure you are on track to graduate. Complete any “bucket list” courses and remaining major, college, and campus requirements.</td>
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<td><strong>Connect and build community</strong></td>
<td><strong>Engage locally and globally</strong></td>
<td><strong>Attend African American Studies events</strong></td>
<td><strong>Join a professional association such as the National Association of African American Studies</strong></td>
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<td>Get involved with the Berkeley Connect in African American Studies and L&amp;S Mentors Program. Find study groups, tutoring, and academic support at the Student Learning Center. Enroll in BUS 98: College Success in L&amp;S. Consider applying to the African American Studies program.</td>
<td>Attend the Calapaloosa student activities fair and get involved with a student organization. Find service opportunities through the Public Service Center. Explore study, internship, and research abroad options with Berkeley Study Abroad.</td>
<td>Welcome new students to UC Berkeley through Black Welcome Month and Golden Bear Orientation. Check out events sponsored by the Ethnic Studies Department or the Multicultural Community Center.</td>
<td>Attend African American Studies events Welcome new students to UC Berkeley through Black Welcome Month and Golden Bear Orientation. Check out events sponsored by the Ethnic Studies Department or the Multicultural Community Center. Join a professional association such as the National Association of African American Studies. Connect with alumni groups such as the Black Alumni Association and build your network as you prepare to graduate.</td>
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<td><strong>Reflect and plan your future</strong></td>
<td><strong>Utilize job search tools from the Career Center</strong></td>
<td><strong>Experience life at another UC or college on a visitor and exchange program.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Prepare to graduate.</strong></td>
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<td>Visit the Career Center and Career Counseling Library. Open new opportunities with the Career Connections Networking Series or a winter externship.</td>
<td>Explore your resume and LinkedIn profile. Discuss post-graduate options with advisors and professors. Attend career and graduate school fairs like the “Nonprofit, Education, &amp; Public Service Career Fair.” Ask professors and graduate student instructors for recommendation letters.</td>
<td>Experience life at another UC or college on a visitor and exchange program. Check out Berkeley’s exchange with Howard University, Fisk University, Spellman College and Morehouse College. Study and intern in Washington D.C. with UCDC or Cal in the Capital. Contribute to youth participatory action research through the Berkeley Black Scholars Project.</td>
<td>Hone your leadership skills with the Peter E. Haas Public Service Leaders program. Interested in a public service career? Apply for the John Gardner Fellowship. Explore service opportunities after graduation, such as Peace Corps, Teach for America, or U.S. Department of State.</td>
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**WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR?**

With its interdisciplinary strengths in history, culture, and social and political institutions, the African American Studies major provides students with skills in research, criticism, and writing that our graduates have taken to a variety of professional paths, including teaching, government and policy work, employment in mass media, professional schools (law, medicine, business), and graduate study in multiple fields.

**Jobs and Employers**

- Art History Lecturer, UC Berkeley
- Assoc. Professor, Florida State University
- Career Development Coord., Unitek College
- Executive Consultant, Self-Care Consulting
- Founder, Infinite Potential Africa
- Founder, Teach Your Own
- Founder, Infinite Potential Africa
- Independence Facilitator, Aspire Public Schools
- Interim Campus Director, Flatiron School
- Public Health Nurse, County of San Mateo
- Recruiting Coordinator, Segment
- Obama Admin/Special Ass’t and Personal Aide to the First Lady
- Tyra B. Technique Sourcer, Allstate

**Graduate Programs**

- African-American/Black Studies, Masters/PhD
- African Diaspora Studies, PhD
- American Culture Studies, PhD
- Curriculum and Instruction, Masters Sociology, Masters/PhD

Examples gathered from LinkedIn and the First Destination Survey of recent Berkeley graduates.