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

AMILIFY 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

HOW TO USE THIS MAP

Use this map to help plan and guide your experience at UC Berkeley, including academic, co-curricular, and discovery opportunities. Everyone’s Berkeley experience is different and activities in this map are suggestions. Always consult with your advisors whenever possible for new opportunities and updates.

Visit vcue.berkeley.edu/majormaps for the latest version of this major map.

CONNECT WITH US

Cal Day
Come to UC Berkeley’s annual Open House in April for information sessions, campus tours, special talks, and more.

Golden Bear Orientation
Join your peers in the campus-wide UC Berkeley orientation program for all new students.

Events
Attend department events with students, faculty, and staff. Visit africam.berkeley.edu for news and updates.

ADVISING

Students can schedule appointments and send general advising questions to Althea Grannum Cummings at cummings@berkeley.edu.

Advising Drop-In Hours
Monday - Friday, 10am-12pm
AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES
Bachelor of Arts

Design Your Journey

**Explore Your Major**
- 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).

**Connect and Build Community**
- Get involved with the Berkeley African American Studies and L&S Mentors Program.
- Find study groups, tutoring, and academic support at the Student Learning Center.
- Enroll in UGS 98: College Success in L&S.
- Consider applying to the Berkeley African American Studies honors program.

**Discover Your Passions**
- Discover new interests in a Freshman Seminar like AFRICAM 24, L&S 1, or a student-run DeCal course.
- Join a student organization such as the Black Student Union.
- Check out resources from African American Student Development.
- Enroll in UGS 98: College Success in L&S.
- Consider applying to the Berkeley African American Studies honors program.

**Engage Locally and Globally**
- Attend the Calapalooza 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.
- Work with a community organization in an American Cultures Engaged Scholarship course.
- Join the student leadership team of African American Student Development.

**Reflect and Plan Your Future**
- Visit the Career Center and Career Counseling Library.
- Sign up for the Handshake and CareerMail.
- Explore career fields in the Career Connections Networking Series or a winter externship.
- Reflect on your education so far and continue to set goals for yourself.
- Meet with a Career Center counselor to discuss your career options and goals.
- Think about doing an internship and attend an Internship Fair.
- Learn about graduate and professional school opportunities.

**First Year**
- Complete the three lower division prerequisites and declare the major.
- Review major guidelines for study abroad.
- Consider doing the Race and the Law minor.

**Second Year**
- Focus on upper division requirements and electives.
- 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.

**Third Year**
- Complete AFRICAM 195 during fall semester.
- Do a degree check to ensure you are on track to graduate.
- Complete any “bucket list” courses and remaining major, college, and campus requirements.

**Fourth Year**
- Explore campus centers and institutes like the Center for African Studies, Center for Race & Gender, Center for Research on Social Change, Institute for the Study of Societal Issues, and Othering & Belonging Institute.
- Planning a senior thesis or project? Apply to the Haas Scholars Program, SURF, or Center for Race and Gender Student Grants Program.
- 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.

**Graduate Programs**
- African-American/Black Studies, Master/PhD
- African Diaspora Studies, PhD
- American Culture Studies, PhD
- Curriculum and Instruction, Masters
- Sociology, Masters/PhD

**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
- University of California Berkeley study and submit your work to the Berkeley
- Unitek College
- Personal Aide to the First Lady
- Obama Admin/Special Asst.
- USA Peace Corps
- Teach for America
- John Gardner Fellowship
- U.S. Peace Corps
- John Gardner Fellowship
- Hone your leadership skills with the Peter E. Haas
- Teach for America, or U.S. Department of State.

**Update Your Resume and LinkedIn Profile**
- Discuss post-graduate options with advisors and professors.
- Attend career and graduate school fairs like the "Nonprofit, Education, & Public Service Career Fair”.
- Ask professors and graduate student instructors for recommendation letters.

**Utilize Job Search Tools from the Career Center**
- Meet employers at Employer Info Sessions and On-Campus Recruiting.
- Apply to jobs, graduate school, and other opportunities.

**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.

**Updated Last: 070220**
- Review major guidelines for study abroad (AFRICAM 100, 101, 116, and 195).
- Consider a major or minor.
- American Student Development.
- African American Studies.
- Race and the Law, or minor.
- Summer minor thread course.
- Enrich your studies with a Discovery Course.
- Continue with a Big Ideas, Discovery Course, and SURF-SMART.
- Propose research and assist faculty.
- Participatory action research.
- Full-time job, government and policy.
- Or, 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.

**Third Year**
- Complete AFRICAM 195 during fall semester.
- Do a degree check to ensure you are on track to graduate.
- Complete any “bucket list” courses and remaining major, college, and campus requirements.

**Fourth Year**
- Explore campus centers and institutes like the Center for African Studies, Center for Race & Gender, Center for Research on Social Change, Institute for the Study of Societal Issues, and Othering & Belonging Institute.
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- Career Development Coord., Unitek College
- Executive Consultant, Self-Care Consulting
- Founder, Infinite Potential Africa
- University of California Berkeley study and submit your work to the Berkeley Undergraduate Journal
- Keep pursuing your interests through a fellowship or gap year after graduation.

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