Bachelor of Arts

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

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

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.

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.

AMPLIFY YOUR MAJOR

• Apply to the African American Theme Program
• Get involved in a student organization such as the Black Student Union
• Experience life on 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
Bachelor of Arts

DESIGN YOUR JOURNEY

**FIRST YEAR**
- 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).
  - Consider taking an African language like AFRICAM 11A.
- Connect and build community
  - Get involved with mentoring Berkeley Connect in 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 African American Studies L&S Mentors Program.
- Discover your passions
  - Discover new interests in a Freshman Seminar like AFRICAM 24, L&S 4, or a student-run DeCal course.
  - Attend the Undergraduate Research and Scholarship Fair in October.
  - Visit the Ethnic Studies Library in Stephens Hall and explore its collections.
  - Get inspired with The Diaspora newsletter.
- 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.
- Reflect and plan your future
  - Visit the Career Center and Career Counseling Library.
  - Check out the Career Center Yearly Planner.
  - Sign up for Handshake and CareerMail.
  - Explore career fields in the Career Connections Networking Series or a winter externship.

**SECOND YEAR**
- Continue with a Sophomore Seminar, Major Ideas, Course or Discovery Course.
- Assist faculty and graduate students in their research through URAP and SURF-SMART.
- Planning study or research in Africa? Apply for the Rosberg/Geist Fellowship.
- Enrich your studies with a certificate, course thread, or summer minor like Race and the Law.

**THIRD 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).
- Consider doing the Race and the Law minor.
- 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 exchanges with Howard University, Fisk University, Spelman College and Morehouse College.
- Study and intern in Washington D.C. with UCCD or Cal in the Capital.
- Contribute to youth participatory action research through the Berkeley Black Scholars Project.

**FOURTH 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.

**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
- Independence Facilitator, Aspire Public Schools
- Intern Camp Director, Flatiron School
- Public Health Nurse, County of San Mateo
- Recruiting Coordinator, Segment
- Obama Admin/Special Asst. and Personal Aide to the First Lady
- Technical Sourcer, Alstare

**Graduate Programs**
- African-American 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.

**Updated Last: 04/26/2021**