African American Studies
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.

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

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.

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

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.
AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES
Bachelor of Arts

Design Your Journey

**First Year**
- Meet with your major and college advisor to discuss your academic plan.
- Familiarize yourself with major and college requirements.
- Start on the lower division requirements (AFRICAM 4A, 5A, and 5B).

**Second Year**
- Complete the three lower division prerequisites and declare the major.
- Once declared, start on upper division requirements (AFRICAM 100, 101, 106, and 107).
- Review major guidelines for study abroad.
- Consider doing the Race and the Law minor.

**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).
- Ask the major advisor about the African American Studies honors program.

**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.

**Explore Your Major**
- Start your major and college advisor to discuss your academic plan.
- Familiarize yourself with major and college requirements.

**Connect and Build Community**
- Get involved with the 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 Berkeley Study Abroad.

**Discover Your Passions**
- Discover new interests in a Freshman Seminar like AFRICAM 24, L&S 1, or a student-run DeCal course.
- Attend the Undergraduate Research and Scholarship Fair in October.
- Explore the Ethnic Studies Library in Stephens Hall and get inspired by its collections.

**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.

**Library**
- Visit the Ethnic Studies Library in Stephens Hall.
- Attend the Undergraduate Research and Scholarship Fair in October.

**Public**
- Find service opportunities through the Berkeley Black Scholars Project.
- Contribute to youth participatory action research.

**Graduate Programs**
- African-American/Black Studies, Masters/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
- Consulting Executive, Self-Care Consulting
- College Career Development Coord., Unitek College
- Art History Lecturer, UC Berkeley
- Jobs and Employers
- 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 Otherting & Belonging Institute.

**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.

**Update**
- Updated Last: 11/19/22

- 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.
- Explore study abroad, internship, and research abroad.

- 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.
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