

AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES, BA

The Department of African American Studies offers you an opportunity to study Black history, culture, and society in interdisciplinary models that reconstruct African American life. It challenges you to critically examine facts and issues that are historically and contemporaneously relevant to the African American experience. Faculty members and students are active in a broad range of activities, including hip-hop programs for at-risk youth, college classes for low-income adults, the Prison Education Initiative, and the Public History Project. The department prides itself on positive working relationships with our colleagues in other disciplines, including the departments of Gender and Women's Studies (<https://gws.wisc.edu/>), African Cultural Studies (<https://african.wisc.edu/>), English (<https://english.wisc.edu/>), History (<https://history.wisc.edu/>), and the School of Education (<https://education.wisc.edu/>).

The department is committed to bringing academic research to the broadest possible audience, with the belief that the deepest understanding of the complex reality of race in America requires a truly interdisciplinary approach, one that draws on history and literature, the social sciences, and the arts. Course options for the African American Studies major include "Introduction to Black Women Writers," "Race and American Politics from the New Deal to the New Right," "Hip-Hop and Contemporary American Society," "Blacks, Film, and Society," "Afrofuturism and Popular Culture," "Introduction to African American Art," "Black Street Culture," "Traditions in African American Humor," "Slavery and Capitalism," and "Black Women's Political Behavior."

African American Studies students gain deeper insight into ongoing racial inequality and social justice, helping them be more informed and empathetic when addressing issues of equity in their future careers. Students will graduate prepared to interact effectively in a multicultural world and workplaces and to share the results of academic research in the area of race with their communities.

HOW TO GET IN

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Requirements	Details
How to get in	No application required. All students who meet the requirements listed below are eligible to declare. For information on how to declare, visit Advising & Careers.
Courses required to get in	None
GPA requirements to get in	None
Credits required to get in	None
Other	None

Students intending to major in African American Studies should contact the Undergraduate Advisor.

REQUIREMENTS

UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison are required to fulfill a minimum set of common university general education requirements to ensure that every graduate acquires the essential core of an undergraduate education. This core establishes a foundation for living a productive life, being a citizen of the world, appreciating aesthetic values, and engaging in lifelong learning in a continually changing world. Various schools and colleges will have requirements in addition to the requirements listed below. Consult your advisor for assistance, as needed. For additional information, see the university Undergraduate General Education Requirements (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatedystudytext>) section of the Guide.

General Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breadth—Humanities/Literature/Arts: 6 credits • Breadth—Natural Science: 4 to 6 credits, consisting of one 4- or 5-credit course with a laboratory component; or two courses providing a total of 6 credits • Breadth—Social Studies: 3 credits • Communication Part A & Part B * • Ethnic Studies * • Quantitative Reasoning Part A & Part B *
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* The mortarboard symbol appears before the title of any course that fulfills one of the Communication Part A or Part B, Ethnic Studies, or Quantitative Reasoning Part A or Part B requirements.

COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA)

Students pursuing a bachelor of arts degree in the College of Letters & Science must complete all of the requirements below. The College of Letters & Science allows this major to be paired with either a bachelor of arts or a bachelor of science curriculum.

BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Mathematics	Complete the University General Education Requirements for Quantitative Reasoning A (QR-A) and Quantitative Reasoning B (QR-B) coursework.
Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the fourth unit of a language other than English; OR • Complete the third unit of a language and the second unit of an additional language other than English.

- L&S Breadth
- 12 credits of Humanities, which must include 6 credits of literature; and
 - 12 credits of Social Science; and
 - 12 credits of Natural Science, which must include one 3+ credit Biological Science course and one 3+ credit Physical Science course.

Liberal Arts and Science Coursework	Complete at least 108 credits.
Depth of Intermediate/Advanced work	Complete at least 60 credits at the intermediate or advanced level.
Major	Declare and complete at least one major.
Total Credits	Complete at least 120 credits.
UW-Madison Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 credits in residence, overall; and • 30 credits in residence after the 86th credit.
Quality of Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2,000 in all coursework at UW-Madison • 2,000 in Intermediate/Advanced level coursework at UW-Madison

NON-L&S STUDENTS PURSUING AN L&S MAJOR

Non-L&S students who have permission from their school/college to pursue an additional major within L&S only need to fulfill the major requirements. They do not need to complete the L&S Degree Requirements above.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR

The major in African American Studies requires **a minimum of 30 credits**. 15 of those credits must be numbered 300 and above. Students must take 2 courses from each of the five areas listed below:

1. Literature;
2. History and Society;
3. Arts and Culture;
4. Seminars and Advanced Courses; and
5. Electives.

LITERATURE

Code	Title	Credits
Two Courses From: 6		
AFROAMER/ GEN&WS 222	Introduction to Black Women Writers	
AFROAMER 225	Introduction to African American Dramatic Literature	
AFROAMER 227	Introduction to African American Literature	
AFROAMER 265	African-American Autobiography	
AFROAMER 337	The Harlem Renaissance	
AFROAMER 338	The Black Arts Movement	
Total Credits		6

HISTORY AND SOCIETY

Code	Title	Credits
Two Courses From: 6		
AFROAMER 151	Introduction to Contemporary Afro-American Society	
AFROAMER 231	Introduction to African American History	
AFROAMER 272	Race and American Politics from the New Deal to the New Right	
AFROAMER/ HISTORY 321	Afro-American History Since 1900	
AFROAMER/ HISTORY 322	African American History to 1900	
AFROAMER/ GEN&WS 324	Black Women in America: Reconstruction to the Present	
AFROAMER/ GEN&WS 326	Race and Gender in Post-World War II U.S. Society	
AFROAMER/ HISTORY 393	Slavery, Civil War, and Reconstruction, 1848-1877	
Total Credits		6

ARTS AND CULTURE

Code	Title	Credits
Two Courses From: 6		
AFROAMER 154	Hip-Hop and Contemporary American Society	
AFROAMER 156	Black Music and American Cultural History	
AFROAMER/ ART HIST 241	Introduction to African Art and Architecture	
AFROAMER/ ART HIST 242	Introduction to Afro-American Art	
AFROAMER/ GEN&WS 267	Artistic/Cultural Images of Black Women	
AFROAMER 303	Blacks, Film, and Society	
AFROAMER/ GEN&WS 367	Art and Visual Culture: Women of the African Diaspora and Africa	
Total Credits		6

SEMINARS AND ADVANCED COURSES

Code	Title	Credits
Two Courses From: 6		
AFROAMER 525	Major Authors	
AFROAMER 621	Slavery and Capitalism in the United States	
AFROAMER/ GEN&WS 624	African American Women's Activism (19th & 20th Centuries)	
AFROAMER/ GEN&WS 625	Gender, Race and the Civil Rights Movement	
AFROAMER/ HISTORY 628	History of the Civil Rights Movement in the United States	
AFROAMER 631	Colloquium in Afro-American History	
AFROAMER 671	Selected Topics in Afro-American History	

AFROAMER/ ENGL 672	Selected Topics in Afro-American Literature
AFROAMER 673	Selected Topics in Afro-American Society
AFROAMER 675	Selected Topics in Afro-American Culture
AFROAMER/ GEN&WS 677	Critical and Theoretical Perspectives in Black Women's Writings

Total Credits 6

ELECTIVES

Code	Title	Credits
Two Courses From		6
AFROAMER/ AMER IND/ ASIAN AM/ CHICLA/ FOLKLORE 102	Introduction to Comparative US Ethnic and American Indian Studies	
AFROAMER 155	They: Race in American Literature	
AFROAMER/ GEN&WS 221	Introduction to Black Women's Studies	
AFROAMER 271	Selected Topics in African American Culture	
AFROAMER 302	Undergraduate Studies in Afro-American History	
AFROAMER/ GEN&WS 323	Gender, Race and Class: Women in U.S. History	
AFROAMER/ GEN&WS 333	Black Feminisms	
AFROAMER/ HISTORY 347	The Caribbean and its Diasporas	
AFROAMER/ POLI SCI 519	African American Political Theory	
AFROAMER/ HIST SCI/ MED HIST 523	Race, American Medicine and Public Health	
AFROAMER/ ED POL 567	History of African American Education	

Total Credits 6

RESIDENCE AND QUALITY OF WORK

- 2.000 GPA in all AFROAMER and major courses
- 2.000 GPA on at least 15 credits of upper-level work in the major, in residence²
- 15 credits in AFROAMER, taken on the UW-Madison campus

² Upper-level in the major includes AFROAMER courses numbered 300 and above and courses that count for the major that are designated as Intermediate or Advanced level.

HONORS IN THE MAJOR

Students may declare Honors in the African American Studies Major in consultation with the African American Studies undergraduate advisor.

HONORS IN THE AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

To earn Honors in the Major in African American Studies, students must satisfy both the requirements for the major (above) and the following additional requirements:

- 3.300 University GPA
- 3.500 GPA in all AFROAMER courses, and all courses accepted in the major
- Complete at least one course with a cross-cultural or comparative focus:

Code	Title	Credits
AFROAMER/ ART HIST 241	Introduction to African Art and Architecture	3
AFROAMER/ ANTHRO/C&E SOC/ GEOG/HISTORY/ LACIS/POLI SCI/ SOC/SPANISH 260	Latin America: An Introduction	3-4
AFROAMER/ AFRICAN/ANTHRO/ GEOG/HISTORY/ POLI SCI/SOC 277	Africa: An Introductory Survey	4
AFROAMER/ DANCE/MUSIC 318	Cultural Cross Currents: West African Dance/Music in the Americas	3
AFROAMER/ ASIAN AM/DANCE/ FOLKLORE 319	Afro Asian Improv: From Hip Hop to Martial Arts Fusion	3
AFROAMER/ HISTORY 347	The Caribbean and its Diasporas	3
AFROAMER/ AFRICAN 413	Contemporary African and Caribbean Drama	3-4

- Complete at least 15 credits in AFROAMER in courses numbered 500-599 or 600-699, to include a two-semester Senior Honors Thesis in AFROAMER 681 and AFROAMER 682, for a total of 6 credits.

UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Total Degree To receive a bachelor's degree from UW-Madison, students must earn a minimum of 120 degree credits. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 degree credits. Students should consult with their college or department advisor for information on specific credit requirements.

Residency Degree candidates are required to earn a minimum of 30 credits in residence at UW-Madison. "In residence" means on the UW-Madison campus with an undergraduate degree classification. "In residence" credit also includes UW-Madison courses offered in distance or online formats and credits earned in UW-Madison Study Abroad/Study Away programs.

Quality of Work Undergraduate students must maintain the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, or academic program to remain in good academic standing. Students whose academic performance drops below these minimum thresholds will be placed on academic probation.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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1. Familiar with the history, culture and social conditions of African Americans in the United States and, secondarily, in the African diaspora.
2. Prepared to interact effectively in a multicultural world.
3. Prepared to share the results of academic research in the area of race with their communities in Wisconsin, the U.S., and the world.
4. Prepared for careers working in institutions that address the needs of multicultural communities.
5. Develop an understanding of the connection between different disciplinary approaches to the study of race.

FOUR-YEAR PLAN

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This Four-Year Plan is only one way a student may complete an L&S degree with this major. Many factors can affect student degree planning, including placement scores, credit for transferred courses, credits earned by examination, and individual scholarly interests. In addition, many students have commitments (e.g., athletics, honors, research, student organizations, study abroad, work and volunteer experiences) that necessitate they adjust their plans accordingly. Informed students engage in their own unique Wisconsin Experience by consulting their academic advisors, Guide, DARS, and Course Search & Enroll for assistance making and adjusting their plan.

First Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
Communication-A (complete during your first year)	3 AFROAMER major course	3
Quantitative Reasoning-A (complete during your first year)	3 AFROAMER major course (Literature) ²	3
Foreign Language	4 AFROAMER elective (Ethnic Studies) ³	3
AFROAMER Arts & Culture course ¹	3 AFROAMER major course (History & Society) ⁴	3
Elective (eg. SEED = 1 credit)	1-3 Elective	3
16		15

Second Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
Quantitative Reasoning-B	4 Communication-B	3-4

INTER-LS 210 (Elective)	1 AFROAMER major course numbered 300-above (History & Society)	3
AFROAMER major course (Arts & Culture)	3 Physical Science Breadth	3
Biological Science Breadth	3 Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
14		15

Third Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
Declare the Major (before 86 credits) ⁴	AFROAMER major course numbered 300-higher (Literature)	3
I/A Comp Sci, Math or Stats (if required for BS)	3 AFROAMER major course numbered 300-higher	3
AFROAMER major course numbered 300 and higher	3 Science Breadth	3
Science Breadth	3 Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
Elective	3	
15		15

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
AFROAMER seminar	3 AFROAMER Seminar	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
15		15

Total Credits 120

- ¹ Many AFROAMER courses from Arts & Culture carry Humanities breadth and will also meet the L&S Breadth requirement for Humanities (up to 6 credits).
- ² AFROAMER literature courses will satisfy the L&S Literature Breadth requirement (6 credits of Literature course work).
- ³ Nearly all AFROAMER courses carry the Ethnic Studies (ESR) designation and will apply to General Education and the major. Students should complete ESR within first 60 credits.
- ⁴ Many AFROAMER courses in History & Society will carry Social Science Breadth and also meet the L&S Breadth requirements for Social Science (12 credits) course work.
- ⁵ Students must declare a major by the time they reach 86 credits.

ADVISING AND CAREERS

ADVISING AND CAREERS DECLARE OR CANCEL THIS MAJOR

Please contact the undergraduate advisor.

SUCCESSWORKS

SuccessWorks (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/>) at the College of Letters & Science helps you turn the academic skills learned in your classes into a fulfilling life, guiding you every step of the way to securing jobs, internships, or admission to graduate school.

Through one-on-one career advising, events, and resources, you can explore career options, build valuable internship and research experience, and connect with supportive alumni and employers who open doors of opportunity.

- What you can do with your major (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/what-you-can-do-with-your-major/>) (Major Skills & Outcomes Sheets)
- Make a career advising appointment (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/make-an-appointment/>)
- Learn about internships and internship funding (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/finding-a-job-or-internship/>)
- Try “Jobs, Internships, & How to Get Them,” (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/canvas/>) an interactive guide in Canvas for enrolled UW–Madison students