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

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.

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

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 ue.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
Tuesday & Thursday, 10am-12pm, 1-4pm (in-person)
Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 10am-12pm (Zoom)
# 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).

### Second Year
- **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 Student Leadership Team of African American Studies.

### Third Year
- **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.
  - Visit the Ethnic Studies Library in Stephens Hall and explore its collections.
  - Get inspired with The Diaspora newsletter.

### Fourth Year
- **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.

## Curriculum and Instruction, Masters

**American Culture Studies, PhD**

- **Curriculum**
  - This program offers advanced training in American culture studies.
  - It focuses on the interdisciplinary study of American culture and its historical development.
  - Students are encouraged to engage with critical theories and methodologies.

## Jobs and Employers

**Art History Lecturer, UC Berkeley**

- **Professor**, Florida State University

**Career Development Coord., Unitek College**

- **Executive Consultant**, Self-Care Consulting

**Founder**, Infinite Potential Africa Independence Facilitator, Aspire Public Schools

**Interim Campus Director, Flatiron School**

**Public Health Nurse, County of Santa Clara**

- **Recruiting Coordinator**, Segment

**President**, American Studies Association

- **Consulting**, University of California

**Art History Lecturer, UC Berkeley**

- **Art History Lecturer**, UC Berkeley

## Graduate Programs

**African-American/Black Studies, Masters/PhD**

**American 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.

## 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.

## 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.

- **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 See Step-by-Step for planning help.

- **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.

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