Program Description

Not all options are available at every campus. Contact the campus you are interested in attending to determine which options are offered.

This interdisciplinary major is designed to give students an integrated and critical understanding of the experiences and contributions of peoples of African descent. Students are encouraged to do research and evaluate the relationship between the political, social, and economic developments in Africa and the African Diaspora. An African American Studies Option, African Studies Option, and a Law and Social Justice Option are available within the major. The methodology requirements of the proposed program would enable our students to engage in social science research. It would also prepare them better for graduate programs in the social sciences.

African American Studies Option

This emphasis provides students with the opportunity to explore the experiences of African Americans using theories and methods originating in the field along with those adopted from the various disciplines. Students are also made aware of the potential to apply this knowledge to the solution of social, political, and economic problems. The curriculum also promotes greater understanding of the relationship between African American and other ethnic groups in the shaping of American society and culture.

African Studies Option

This option provides students with the opportunity to examine the geographical, cultural, historical, political, and economic aspects of Africa.

Law and Social Justice Option

This multi-disciplinary program would provide students with the opportunity to study the politics, culture, economics, and history of African Americans in our society and link this understanding with an in depth study of criminal justice and the legal system. Issues that students will focus on will be areas such as, Are African Americans discriminated against in criminal justice decision-making? What is the historic connection between race and punishment in the US legal system? How do issues of class, race, and gender impact policy decisions about crime and punishment? What is the socioeconomic impact of high incarceration rates on the African American community? The program is designed to encourage students to think systematically about the relationship among public policy, the criminal justice system, and shifting notions of social justice that have characterized debates over the workings and goals of the prison system in American life and thought. The proposed program would enable us to foster a cadre of students who will be particularly suited to pursue graduate work in the area.

Entrance to Major

In order to be eligible for entrance to this major, a student must:

1. attain at least a C (2.00) cumulative grade-point average for all courses taken at the University; and
2. have third-semester classification (http://www.registrar.psu.edu/registration/semester_classification.cfm).

READ SENATE POLICY 37-30: ENTRANCE TO AND CHANGES IN MAJOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/37-00-entrance-to-a-college-or-major)

Degree Requirements

For the Bachelor of Science degree in African and African American Studies, a minimum of 120 credits is required:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirements for the Major</td>
<td>64-65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Per Senate Policy 83-80.5, the college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. For more information, check the Recommended Academic Plan for your intended program.

General Education

Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

Foundations (grade of C or better is required.)

- Quantification (GQ): 6 credits
- Writing and Speaking (GWS): 9 credits

Knowledge Domains

- Arts (GA): 6 credits
- Health and Wellness (GHW): 3 credits
- Humanities (GH): 6 credits
- Social and Behavioral Sciences(GS): 6 credits
- Natural Sciences (GN): 9 credits

Integrative Studies (may also complete a Knowledge Domain requirement)

- Inter-Domain or Approved Linked Courses: 6 credits

4-10 of these 45 credits are included in the Requirements for the Major.
University Degree Requirements

First Year Engagement
All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

Cultures Requirement
6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements
- United States Cultures: 3 credits
- International Cultures: 3 credits

Writing Across the Curriculum
3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

Total Minimum Credits
A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

Quality of Work
Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition
The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

Requirements for the Major
This includes 4-10 credits of General Education courses: 4 credits of GQ courses, 6 credits of GS courses.

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the major. To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn at least a C grade in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44.

Common Requirements for the Major (All Options)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFR 110</td>
<td>Introduction to Contemporary Africa</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM 100</td>
<td>Living While Black: Themes in African American Thought and Experience</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 207</td>
<td>Research Methods in Sociology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STAT 200</td>
<td>Elementary Statistics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Requirements for the Option

African American Studies Option

Prescribed Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFAM 101</td>
<td>The African American Woman</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM/HIST 211</td>
<td>Slavery and Freedom in the Black Atlantic</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM 401</td>
<td>Afro-American Studies Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional Courses

Select any 48 credits.
### African Studies Option

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFR 191</td>
<td>Early African History</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFR 192</td>
<td>Modern African History</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAAS 400</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better

Select 21 credits with at least 3 credits of AAAS courses of the following:

- AFAM 83  First-Year Seminar in African American Studies
- AFR 197  Special Topics
- AFR 199  Foreign Studies
- AFAM 211  Slavery and Freedom in the Black Atlantic
- AFR 297  Special Topics
- AFR 299  Foreign Studies
- AFR 395  Internship
- AAAS 397
- AFR 399  Foreign Studies
- AFR 202
- ECON 102  Introductory Microeconomic Analysis and Policy
- ECON 104  Introductory Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy
- ECON 304  Intermediate Macroeconomic Analysis
- SWA 1  Elementary Swahili I
- SWA 2  Elementary Swahili II

Select 18 credits at the 400-level with at least 9 credits in AAAS courses of the following:

- AFR 403  South Africa Today
- AFAM 431  Black Liberation and American Foreign Policy
- AFR 440  Globalization and Its Implications
- AFR 443  Ethnic Conflict in Africa
- AFR 454  Government and Politics of Africa
- AFAM 465  The Post-World War II Civil Rights Movement
- AFAM/LER/PLSC 445Y  Politics of Affirmative Action
- AAAS 494
- AFR 495  Internship
- AFR 497  Special Topics
- AFR 499  Foreign Studies
- ECON 471  Growth and Development
- GEOG 444  African Resources and Development
- PLSC 453  Political Processes in Underdeveloped Systems

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### Law and Social Justice Option

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM 210</td>
<td>Freedom's First Generation: African American Life and Work, 1865 to World War II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM 401</td>
<td>Afro-American Studies Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRIMJ/CRIM/SOC 12</td>
<td>Criminology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRIMJ/CRIM 100</td>
<td>Introduction to Criminal Justice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRIMJ/CRIM 113</td>
<td>Introduction to Law</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRIMJ/CRIM 451</td>
<td>Race, Crime, and Justice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better

Select 30 credits of the following:

- AFAM/HIST  Black Liberation and American Foreign Policy 431
- AFAM 409  Racial and Ethnic Inequality in America
- AFAM/LER/PLSC 445Y  Politics of Affirmative Action
- AFAM/HIST  The Post-World War II Civil Rights Movement 465
- AFR 440  Globalization and Its Implications
- ECON 436W  Economics of Discrimination
- CRIMJ/WMNST 453  Women and the Criminal Justice System
- CRIM 490  Crime Policy
- CRIM 441  The Juvenile Justice System
- CRIM/SOC 467  Law and Society
- CRIM 430  American Correctional System
- CRIM 433  Sentencing
- CRIM 435  Policing in America

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### Academic Advising

The objectives of the university's academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and out-of-class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee's unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information need to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy)

### University Park

Liberal Arts Academic Advising
814-865-2545
http://starfish.psu.edu
http://www.la.psu.edu/current-students/undergraduate-students/
advising/advisers-by-major

Contact

University Park
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES
133 Willard Building
University Park, PA 16802
814-863-4243
jle1@psu.edu

http://www.afam.la.psu.edu