

AFRICAN AND AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES, B.S.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: University Park

Degree Requirements

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

Requirement	Credits
General Education	45
Electives	20
Requirements for the Major	64-65

4-10 of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes: 4 credits of GQ courses; 6 credits of GS courses.

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 Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

Requirements for the Major

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 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/>).

Common Requirements for the Major (All Options)

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
AFAM 100N	Black Freedom Struggles	3
AFR 110		3
SOC 207	Research Methods in Sociology	3
STAT 200	Elementary Statistics	4
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
SOC 470	Intermediate Social Statistics	3-4
	or PLSC 309	Quantitative Political Analysis
Requirements for the Option		
<i>Requirements for the Option: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select an option		48

Requirements for the Option African American Studies Option

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
AFAM 101		3
AFAM/HIST 211	Slavery and Freedom in the Black Atlantic	3
AFAM 401	Afro-American Studies Seminar	3

Additional Courses

Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better

Select 21 credits with at least 3 credits in AAAS courses of the following:	21
AFAM 83	First-Year Seminar in African American Studies
AFAM/ WMNST 102	Women of the African Diaspora
AFAM/SOC/ WMNST 103	Racism and Sexism
AFAM/RLST 146	The Life and Thought of Martin Luther King, Jr.
AFAM/RLST 147	The Life and Thought of Malcolm X
AFAM/HIST 210	Freedom's First Generation: African American Life and Work, from the Civil War to World War II
AFR 197	Special Topics
AFR 199	Foreign Studies
ECON 102	Introductory Microeconomic Analysis and Policy
ECON 104	Introductory Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy
ECON 304	Intermediate Macroeconomic Analysis
SOC 119	

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

AAAS 494	
AFAM/SOC 409	Racial and Ethnic Inequality in America
AFAM 431	Black Liberation and American Foreign Policy
AFAM/LER/ PLSC 445Y	Politics of Affirmative Action
AFAM 465	The Post-World War II Civil Rights Movement
AFR 440	Globalization and Its Implications
AFR 495	Internship
AFR 497	Special Topics
AFR 499	Foreign Studies
CRIMJ 451	Race, Crime, and Justice
ECON 436W	
EDTHP 447	Ethnic Minorities and Schools in the United States
PLSC 490	Policy Making and Evaluation

African Studies Option

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
AAAS 400		3
AFR 191	Early African History	3
AFR 192	Modern African History	3

Additional Courses

Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better

Select 21 credits with at least 3 credits of AAAS courses of the following:	21
AAAS 397	
AFAM 83	First-Year Seminar in African American Studies
AFAM 211	Slavery and Freedom in the Black Atlantic
AFR 197	Special Topics

AFR 199	Foreign Studies	
AFR 202N	Women, Gender, and Feminisms in Africa	
AFR 297	Special Topics	
AFR 299	Foreign Studies	
AFR 395	Internship	
AFR 399	Foreign Studies	
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:¹ 18

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

¹ Only 3 credits of Internship (AFR 495) (internship) and 6 credits of Special Topics (AFR 497), Internship (AFR 495), AAAS 494, or Foreign Studies (AFR 499) in any combination may be used to satisfy this requirement.

Law and Social Justice Option

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

Additional Courses

Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better

Select 30 credits of the following: 30

AFAM 409	Racial and Ethnic Inequality in America	
AFAM/HIST 431	Black Liberation and American Foreign Policy	
AFAM/LER/ PLSC 445Y	Politics of Affirmative Action	

AFAM/HIST 465	The Post-World War II Civil Rights Movement	
AFR 440	Globalization and Its Implications	
CRIM 430	American Correctional System	
CRIM 433	Sentencing	
CRIM 435	Policing in America	
CRIM 441	The Juvenile Justice System	
CRIM/SOC 467	Law and Society	
CRIM 490	Crime Policy	
CRIMJ/ WMNST 453	Women and the Criminal Justice System	
ECON 436W		

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 (<https://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 and Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

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

Breadth in the Knowledge Domains (Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

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

Integrative Studies

- **Inter-Domain Courses (Inter-Domain):** 6 credits

Exploration

- **GN**, may be completed with Inter-Domain courses: 3 credits
- **GA, GH, GN, GS, Inter-Domain courses.** This may include 3 credits of World Language course work beyond the 12th credit level or the requirements for the student's degree program, whichever is higher: 6 credits

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 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/>)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.