

# AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES, MINOR

Requirements for a minor may be completed at any campus location offering the specified courses for the minor. Students may not change from a campus that offers their major to a campus that does not offer their major for the purpose of completing a minor.

## Program Description

The Department of African American Studies awards a minor to students who, in addition to meeting the requirements for a major, complete 18 credits in the African American Studies minor. This minor is designed for students interested in African American culture and the educational, social, political, and economic development of people of African descent in the United States. In particular, it provides students with the opportunity to explore the experiences of African Americans using theories and methods originating in the field. Students are made aware of the potential to apply such knowledge to the solution of social, political, and economic problems. The minor also promotes greater understanding of the relationship between African Americans and other ethnic groups.

## What is African American Studies?

African American Studies is an intellectual field of inquiry that examines the history of people of African descent from the colonial period through the present; how systems of racial inequality are produced through state policy, traditional western scholarly disciplines, and popular discourse; and the social, political and cultural movements that black people have developed to identify and resist the unequal material and political conditions that shape black social life in the African Diaspora. The undergraduate major and minor provides a strong foundation in the key theoretical concepts in the discipline, the historical formation of African American Studies as an interdisciplinary field of study, and prepares students to apply what they have learned in the classroom, in independent research and in internships with social justice/service organizations.

## You Might Like This Program If...

- You are passionate about learning more about the history, cultures, and political struggles of people of African-descent in the West.
- You are interested in understanding how racism operates structurally and shapes the social experiences and life chances of black communities.
- You want to study social, cultural, and political movements throughout the African Diaspora.
- You are interested in pursuing independent research or internships with non-profit, research, and community-based organizations committed to racial equity and social justice.

## Program Requirements

Requirement	Credits
Requirements for the Minor	18

## Requirements for the Minor

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the minor, as specified by Senate Policy 59-10 (<https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/59-00-minors-and-certificates/#59-10>).

In addition, at least six credits of the minor must be unique from the prescribed courses required by a student's major(s).

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Prescribed Courses</b>		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
AFAM 100N	Black Freedom Struggles	3
AFAM/WMNST 101N	African American Women	3
AFAM 110N	Introduction to African American Studies	3
<b>Additional Courses</b>		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 9 credits from the following (at least 6 credits must be at the 400 level):		9
AFAM/WMNST 102	Women of the African Diaspora	
AFAM/SOC/WMNST 103	Racism and Sexism	
AFAM/INART 126N	The Popular Arts in America: The History of Hip-Hop	
AFAM/RLST 145	African Diaspora Religions and Spiritualities	
AFAM/RLST 146	The Life and Thought of Martin Luther King, Jr.	
AFAM/RLST 147	The Life and Thought of Malcolm X	
AFAM/MUSIC 207N	Jazz and the African American Experience	
AFAM/THEA 208	Workshop: Theatre in Diverse Cultures	
AFAM/HIST 210	Freedom's First Generation: African American Life and Work, from the Civil War to World War II	
AFAM 226N	Critical Approaches to Hip-Hop	
AFAM/ENGL 235	From Folk Shouts and Songs to Hip Hop Poetry	
AFAM 401	Afro-American Studies Seminar	
AFAM/SOC 409	Racial and Ethnic Inequality in America	
AFAM 410	Spirit, Space, Survival: Contemporary Black Women	
AFAM/THEA 412	African American Theatre	
AFAM/CAS 422	Contemporary African American Communication	
AFAM/HIST 431	Black Liberation and American Foreign Policy	
AFAM/ENGL 463	African American Autobiography	
AFAM/HIST 465	The Post-World War II Civil Rights Movement	
AFAM/ENGL 469	Slavery and the Literary Imagination	
COMM/WMNST 205	Gender, Diversity and the Media	

CRIMJ/CRIM Race, Crime, and Justice  
451

SOC 119N Race, Ethnicity and Culture

## 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 needed to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

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

### University Park

#### Liberal Arts Academic Advising

814-865-2545

Use the Liberal Arts Meet the Academic Advisers web page (<https://la.psu.edu/student-services/academic-advising/meet-the-academic-advisers/>) to see the contact information for the specific adviser(s) of this program

### Abington

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### Harrisburg

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## Career Paths

Graduates in African American Studies go on to pursue a wide-range of career paths including public policy, the law, medicine, public health, social work, criminal justice, social justice advocacy, transnational human rights, community-based organizing, higher education, environmental justice, arts/entertainment, or scholarly research in the social sciences and the humanities.

### Opportunities for Graduate Studies

Many students opt to pursue graduate degrees in African American Studies because they want to teach in African American Studies programs at the college or university-level, or they want to teach from

a critical race theory perspective in traditional disciplines in the social sciences, humanities, law, medicine or other professional programs.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATE STUDIES (<https://afam.la.psu.edu/graduate/>)

## Contact

### University Park

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