African American Studies, BA

A unique facet of the AAST program is its commitment to scholarship on and service to Alabama African American communities, particularly the concerns of African-descended communities from Holt and the west side of Tuscaloosa to the Black Belt areas of Marion, Uniontown, Greensboro, Tuskegee, Selma, and Gee’s Bend. The program places emphasis on developing students’ understanding of interdisciplinary research and its centrality in African American Studies.

Office: 104 Presidents Hall
https://grs.as.ua.edu/undergraduate-programs/african-american-studies-overview/
grs@as.ua.edu

Admission into the Major
Students are expected to formally declare a major no later than the fourth semester of full-time enrollment (or at 61 semester hours for transfer students). Students can declare a major by completing the Change of Major/Minor Application online under the Student tab of myBama.

Special Opportunities
Students have the opportunity to complete internships in a variety of settings. Students should contact the program office for more information. Students are strongly encouraged to enroll in a research methods course and to take advantage of study abroad opportunities.

The University of Alabama and The University of Alabama at Birmingham offer a joint degree in African American studies. Students earning the bachelor of arts (BA) degree with a major in African American studies must complete all University, College and departmental degree requirements. These include the general education requirements, the following major requirements, all requirements for an approved minor and other sufficient credits to total a minimum of 120 applicable semester hours.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code and Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Major Courses</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAST 201 Intro African Amer Study</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>or AMS 201 Intro African Amer Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAST 302 The Black Church</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>AAST 303 Education Of Southern Blacks</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAST 319 19th Century Black History</td>
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<tr>
<td>or HY 319 19th Century Black History</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAST 352 Social Inequality</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAST 401 Black Intellectual Thought</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAST 435 Black Feminism</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAST 395 Special Topics</td>
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<td>AAST 402 Special Topics</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAST 490 AAST Independent Study</td>
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<td>AAST 495 Special Topics</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Credit Hours Subtotal:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
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<tr>
<td>Select six courses of AAST electives or other approved electives</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grade Point Average
A 2.0 grade point average in the major is required for completion of the degree. Please see the Grades and Grade Points section of this catalog for an explanation on grade point average calculations.

Upper-level Residency
A minimum of 12 hours of 300- or 400-level courses in the major must be earned on The University of Alabama (UA) or The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) campuses.

Ancillary Courses
This major does not require ancillary courses.

Required Minor
This major requires the completion of a minor.

Additional Major Requirements
A minimum of 18 hours of 300- or 400-level courses in the major must be completed, nine hours of which must be at the 400 level. Students are responsible for ensuring that they have met all University, College,
major and minor requirements. However, each student must meet with
an adviser in the major department for academic planning and to be
approved for registration each semester. College advisers are also
available for additional assistance with minor, College and University
requirements.

**Prerequisites**
Unless otherwise stated, the prerequisite for 300- and 400-level courses is
junior standing or higher or permission of the instructor.

The major’s interdisciplinary structure gives students the unique
opportunity to meet the expectations of graduate admissions
committees and prospective employers by demonstrating specialized
knowledge in a field of study and general training in a broad liberal
arts curriculum. An African American Studies major is an ideal major
or second major for those who desire to attend graduate school and
professional programs in the following areas: law, education, English,
economics, business management, social work, sports management,
publishing, public health, sociology, film studies, psychology, city
planning, public administration, political science, history, art, ethnic
studies, public relations, communications, and the foreign service
advanced degrees. American Studies majors teach in secondary schools,
junior colleges, and universities and work for historical commissions, arts
alliaces, museums, libraries, and the private sector.

**Types of Jobs Accepted**
Recent graduates have accepted jobs in both city and federal
government; they work in secondary education, journalism, public
relations and advertising, business, have become successful artists, and
have gone on to attend prestigious graduate school programs in a range
of fields.

**Jobs of Experienced Alumni**
Jobs held by alumni include attorney, teacher, journalist, retail
manager, public relations and advertising executive, fiction writer, poet,
performance artist, television and film actor, website developer and social
media consultant, social worker, guidance counselor, corporate executive,
and professional musician.

Learn more about opportunities in this field at the Career Center