

AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES, BA

A unique facet of the program is its commitment to scholarship on the continued development of Alabama as a society of interdependent individuals and institutional processes. This includes research on the 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, and courses that improve our understanding of the social and institutional relationships of all members of the society. The program places emphasis on developing students' understanding of the role of scientific research in providing the norms, standards, and methods for improving societal institutions.

Office: 104 Presidents Hall

<https://grs.as.ua.edu/undergraduate-programs/african-american-studies-overview/>

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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 shared 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.

Code and Title	Hours
Major Courses	
Select five courses of the following:	15
AAST 201 Intro African Amer Study	
or	
AMS 201 Intro African Amer Study	
AAST 302 The Black Church	
AAST 303 Education Of Southern Blacks	
AAST 352 Social Inequality	
AAST 401 Black Intellectual Thought	
AAST 395 Special Topics	
AAST 402 Special Topics	
AAST 490 AAST Independent Study	
AAST 495 Special Topics	
Credit Hours Subtotal:	15
Electives	
Select six courses of AAST electives or other approved electives	18
Credit Hours Subtotal:	18
Total Hours	33

Electives

Students may petition the Department of Gender and Race Studies to substitute any of the following courses when the focus and title is on African American or racial topics:

Code and Title	Hours
AMS 300 Special Topics	3
AMS 321 African American Folk Art	3
AMS 341 African American Art	3
AMS 402 Special Topics	3
AMS 405 Directed Study	1-3
AMS 492 Capstone Research Seminar	3
ARH 481 Topics 20th Century Art	3
CJ 303 Race, Ethnicity, and Crime	3
COM 395 Special Topics	3
COM 413 Communication & Diversity	3
COM 467 Seminar in Public Address	3
COM 495 Special Topics	3
EN 249 African American Literature I	3
EN 311 Special Topics In Literature	3
EN 350 Topics in African American Lit	3
EN 488 Adv Stdy African American Lit	3
GY 344 Geography Of Africa	3
PSC 364 African Amer & Polit Sys	3
REL 237 Self, Society, & Religions	3
REL 480 Seminar Religion and Conflict	3
SW 351 Anti-Oppression Social Justice	3

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 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 that considers some of the most important ideals of the society, social relations and institutional development. An African American Studies major is an exceptional 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. African American majors upon graduation teach and work in administration in secondary schools, junior colleges, and universities, and work for historical commissions, arts alliances, museums, libraries, and at all levels of government. Many majors work in the not for profit sector, in the private sector, and have successful careers in the corporate business environment.

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, work in private corporations, 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, not for profit organization director, university professor, social worker, guidance counselor, corporate executive, and professional musician.

Learn more about opportunities in this field at the Career Center