AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES, BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.)

The Bachelor of Arts in African American Studies is an interdisciplinary degree that provides students with knowledge of human cultures and intellectual and practical skills to engage complexity, diversity and change. The degree program fosters students' personal and social responsibility and, through applied learning experiences, empowers students to negotiate and to solve the complex problems of the 21st century. African American studies majors often pursue graduate and professional degree programs in business, education, history, international relations, law, political science, psychology, public health and social work. Career opportunities with a B.A. only in African American Studies include employment in community health agencies, public and private schools and nonprofit organizations.

Student learning outcomes

Upon completing this program, students will know how to do the following:

1. Define Black experiences across the African Diaspora
   The program aims for each major to demonstrate knowledge of the major concepts, perspectives and theories in Africana studies. This knowledge includes an understanding of the intellectual origins and extant and emergent interdisciplinary scholarship that provide context, definition and form to the collective experiences of persons of African descent.

2. Document and measure Black experiences across the African Diaspora
   The program aims for each major to demonstrate analytical skills that enable them to compare and contrast the utility of qualitative and quantitative approaches in Africana studies and critical-thinking skills that allow them to assess the cultural, political and social implication of such approaches when measuring the experiences of people across Africa and its Diaspora.

3. To interpret Black experiences across the African Diaspora
   The program aims for each major to demonstrate an awareness of the interpretive frameworks that give meaning to Black experiences across the Diaspora. This awareness includes recognition of the intersectionality of artistic, cultural and historical perspectives; gendered, political and religious perspectives; and social and behavioral perspectives.

4. To affirm and validate Black experiences across the African Diaspora
   The program aims for each major to demonstrate the ability to critically engage and to propose integrity-based solutions to novel problems that impact persons of African descent and their communities.

Special requirements

Majors in African American studies must meet the general education requirements of the College of Humanities and Sciences. The Bachelor of Arts in African American Studies requires the completion of 120 credits with at least 30 credits in African American Studies courses. At least 15 of the 30 credits in African American Studies must be in upper-level courses. Students also are required to establish an area of study by taking either a minimum of four courses in a single cooperating department or in one of the following multidisciplinary concentrations: artistic, historical and literary perspectives; political, religious and societal perspectives; or social and behavioral perspectives. At least one of the four courses taken in a single cooperating department must have an Africana focus, and at least one of the four courses must be an upper-level course. Only courses in the selected cooperating department count toward the African American studies major GPA.

A cooperating department or program is defined as one that regularly offers at least one course with an Africana focus per year, which includes: Anthropology, Dance, English, Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies, Geography, History, Mass Communications, Music history, Political Science, Psychology, Religious Studies, Sociology, and Theatre. When non-Africana-focused courses are used to meet the concentration requirement, they must be selected in consultation with the African American studies adviser.

Degree requirements for African American Studies, Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General education (<a href="http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-study/general-education-curriculum/">http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-study/general-education-curriculum/</a>)</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select 12-13 credits from general education foundations and 17-18 credits from areas of inquiry.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Major requirements

1. Major core requirements
   - AFAM 201 Theories and Foundations of Africana Studies 3
   - AFAM 211 Africana Social and Political Thought 3
   - AFAM 311 African Diaspora Experiences 3
   - AFAM 399 Interdisciplinary Research Methods 3
   - AFAM 493 Internship in Africana Studies 3
   - AFAM 499 Capstone Seminar in Africana Studies 3

2. Additional major requirements
   - Complete four courses in one of the cooperating departments or programs listed below, including at least one Africana-focused course and at least one upper level course. 12

Ancillary requirements

1. AFAM 111 Play course video for Introduction to Africana Studies 3
   - Introduction to Africana Studies (satisfies general education BOK for humanities/fine arts and/or AOI for global perspectives)
   - HUMS 202 Choices in a Consumer Society 1
   - Experiential fine arts 2 1-3
   - Foreign language through the 102 level (by course or placement) 0-6

Open electives

- Select any course. 50-58

Total Hours 120

1
2

Any one of GSWS 393, POLI 320, PSYC 317, SOCY 320 or SLWK 380 may be substituted for this course if completed with a minimum grade of C.

Course offered by the School of the Arts

The minimum number of credit hours required for this degree is 120.
Cooperating departments and programs requirement

Complete four courses in one of the cooperating departments or programs listed below, including at least one Africana-focused course and at least one upper level course.

- Anthropology
- Dance
- English
- Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies
- Geography
- History
- Mass Communications
- Music History
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Religious Studies
- Sociology
- Theatre

Refer to the list below for Africana-focused courses offered by or in conjunction with these cooperating departments.

Africana-focused courses from cooperating departments

Note: Students choosing the cooperating department option must complete four courses in one cooperating department or program, including at least one Africana-focused course (from lists below) and at least one upper-level course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFAM/ANTH/INTL 200</td>
<td>Introduction to African Societies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM/ANTH/INTL 309</td>
<td>Gender and Global Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM/ANTH 416</td>
<td>The Origin and Evolution of the Idea of Race</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM/ANTH/INTL 420</td>
<td>Women of Africa</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Or a course approved by an African American studies adviser

Dance

- AFAM/DANC 121 Tap Technique I 2
- AFAM/DANC 122 Tap Technique I 2
- AFAM/DANC 126 African-Caribbean Dance I 2
- AFAM/DANC 151 Jazz Dance Technique I 2
- AFAM/DANC 152 Jazz Dance Technique I 2
- DANC 255 Hip Hop Dance 2
- DANC 256 Hip Hop Dance 2
- DANC 291 Topics in Dance 1-4
- DANC 413 African American Presence in American Dance, Performance and Social Contexts 3

Or a course approved by an African American studies adviser

English

- AFAM/ENGL 363/INTL 366 African Literature 3

Or a course approved by an African American studies adviser

AFAM/ENGL 365/INTL 367 Caribbean Literature 3
AFAM/ENGL 379 African-American Literature: Beginnings Through the Harlem Renaissance 3
ENGL 355 Black Women Writers 3
ENGL/AFAM 382 African-American Literature: Realism to the Present 3

Or a course approved by an African American studies adviser

Gender, sexuality and women’s studies

- AFAM/GSWS/SOCY 305 Oppression, Resilience and the Black Family 3
- AFAM/ANTH/INTL/GSWS 309 Gender and Global Health 3
- AFAM/POLI/GSWS 318 Politics of Race, Class and Gender 3
- AFAM 390/HIST 380/GSWS 390 Forced and Coerced Labor in Africa and the Americas 3
- GSWS 450 Black Feminist Thought 3

Or a course approved by an African American studies adviser

Geography

- AFAM/URSP/INTL 333 Geography of Africa 3

Or a course approved by an African American studies adviser

History

- AFAM/HIST 105 Survey of African History 3
- AFAM/HIST 106 Survey of African History 3
- AFAM/HIST 361 Americans from Africa 3
- AFAM/HIST 362 Americans from Africa 3
- AFAM 387/HIST 381 History of West Africa to 1800 3
- AFAM 389/HIST 383 History of Southern Africa 3
- AFAM 390/HIST 380 Forced and Coerced Labor in Africa and the Americas 3
- AFAM 392/HIST 376 Caribbean History to 1838 3
- AFAM 393 Akhenaten to Cleopatra 3
- HIST 302 Ancient Egypt 3
- HIST 348 The American Civil War and Reconstruction 3
- HIST 352 History of the South I 3
- HIST 353 History of the South II 3
- HIST 356 History of Virginia I 3
- HIST 357 History of Virginia II 3
- HIST 360 The Long Civil Rights Movement 3
- HIST 377 Caribbean History Since 1838 3
- HIST 378 Atlantic Slavery 3
- HIST 384/AFAM 388 Africa: Social, Cultural and Economic History 3
- HIST 410 Studies in African History: ____ 3
- HIST 411 Studies in the African Diaspora: ____ 3
- HIST 417 Studies in African American History: ____ 3

Or a course approved by an African American studies adviser

Mass communications

- MASC 474 Diversity in the Media 3

Or a course approved by an African American studies adviser
Freshman year

Fall semester

AFAM 111  Introduction to Africana Studies (satisfies general education BOK for humanities/fine arts and/or AOI for global perspectives)  3

AFAM 111  Play course video for Introduction to Africana Studies  3

UNIV 101  Introduction to the University  1

UNIV 111  Focused Inquiry I (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)  3

Term Hours:  14-17

Spring semester

HUMS 202  Choices in a Consumer Society  1

UNIV 112  Focused Inquiry II (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)  3

General education course (select AOI for scientific and logical reasoning)  3

General education course (select AOI for creativity, innovation and aesthetic inquiry)  3

General education course (select AOI for diversities in the human experience)  3

General education course (select quantitative foundations)  3

Term Hours:  16

Sophomore year

Fall semester

AFAM 201  Theories and Foundations of Africana Studies  3

AFAM 211  Africana Social and Political Thought  3

AFAM 211  Approved cooperating department elective  3

Foreign language 101  3

Foreign language 102  3

Term Hours:  15

Spring semester

AFAM 211  Africana Social and Political Thought  3

AFAM 211  Approved cooperating department elective  3

Foreign language 102  3

General education course (select AOI for diversities in the human experience)  3

Open elective  3

Term Hours:  15

Junior year

Fall semester

AFAM 311  African Diaspora Experiences  3
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Courses and Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Spring semester | 15    | AFAM 399  
Interdisciplinary Research Methods  
Approved cooperating department elective  
Open electives |
| Senior year   | 15    | Fall semester  
AFAM 493  
Internship in Africana Studies  
Approved cooperating department elective  
Open electives |
| Spring semester | 15    | AFAM 499  
Capstone Seminar in Africana Studies  
Open electives |

Any one of GSWS 393, POLI 320, PSYC 317, SOCY 320 or SLWK 380 may be substituted for this course if completed with a minimum grade of C.

The minimum number of credit hours required for this degree is 120.