

AFRICAN AND AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES, B.A.

Seven Penn State campuses are scheduled for closure after Spring 2027: DuBois, Fayette, New Kensington, Mont Alto, Shenango, Wilkes-Barre, and York. New students are not being admitted at these campuses.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: University Park

Degree Requirements

For the Bachelor of Arts degree in African and African American Studies, a minimum of 123 credits is required:

Requirement	Credits
General Education	45
Electives	9-18
Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements	24
Requirements for the Major	45

0-9 of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes: African American Studies Option -- 0-3 credits of GA courses; 0-3 credits of GH courses; 0-3 credits of GS courses. African Studies Option -- 0-3 credits of GH courses; 0-3 credits of GS courses. Law and Social Justice Option -- 0-3 credits of GS courses.

3 of the 24 credits for Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements are included in the Requirements for the Major, General Education, or Electives and 0-12 credits are included in Electives if world language proficiency is demonstrated by examination.

Per Senate Policy 83-80.5, the college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of coursework 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
AFAM/HIST 211	Slavery and Freedom in the Black Atlantic	3
AFR 110		3
SOC 207	Research Methods in Sociology	3

Requirements for the Option

<i>Requirements for the Option: Require a grade of C or better</i>	
Select an option	33

Requirements for the Option African American Studies Option (33 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
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Prescribed Courses

<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
AFAM/WMNST 101		3
AFAM/SOC/WMNST 103	Racism and Sexism	3
AFAM 401	Afro-American Studies Seminar	3

Additional Courses

<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 24 credits from one of the following three areas of concentration: ¹		24

1. History Perspective

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
AFAM/SOC 409	Racial and Ethnic Inequality in America
AFAM 431	Black Liberation and American Foreign Policy
AFAM/HIST 465	The Post-World War II Civil Rights Movement
ENGL 461	
ENGL 469	Slavery and the Literary Imagination
HIST 152	African American History
PLSC 474	Civil Liberties and Due Process
SOC 119	

2. Social Sciences and Community Development

AFAM/WMNST 102	Women of the African Diaspora
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
AFAM/SOC 409	Racial and Ethnic Inequality in America
AFAM 431	Black Liberation and American Foreign Policy
AFAM/HIST 465	The Post-World War II Civil Rights Movement
CRIMJ 451	Race, Crime, and Justice
ECON 304	Intermediate Macroeconomic Analysis
ECON 436W	
EDTHP 447	Ethnic Minorities and Schools in the United States
PLSC 490	Policy Making and Evaluation
SOC 119	

3. Cultural and Gender Perspective:

AFAM/WMNST 102	Women of the African Diaspora
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AFAM/RLST 145	African Diaspora Religions and Spiritualities
AFAM/THEA 208	Workshop: Theatre in Diverse Cultures
AFAM 410	Spirit, Space, Survival: Contemporary Black Women
AFAM/THEA 412	African American Theatre
AFAM/CAS 422	Contemporary African American Communication
COMM/WMNST 205	Gender, Diversity and the Media
COMM 411	Cultural Aspects of the Mass Media
EDTHP 447	Ethnic Minorities and Schools in the United States
ENGL 139	African American Literature
ENGL 235	From Folk Shouts and Songs to Hip Hop Poetry
ENGL/WMNST 462	Reading Black, Reading Feminist
ENGL 463	African American Autobiography
ENGL 467	African American Novel II
ENGL 469	Slavery and the Literary Imagination
MUSIC 7	Evolution of Jazz
SOC 119	

¹ A minimum of 12 credits should be AAA S courses, and at least 12 of these credits must be at the 400 level or above.

African Studies Option (33 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
AAAS 400		3
AFR/HIST 191	Early African History	3
AFR/HIST 192	Modern African History	3
AFR/PLSC 454	Government and Politics of Africa	3
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 21 credits from one of the following two areas of concentration: ¹		21
1. Humanities Perspective		
AAAS 404		
AFAM 431	Black Liberation and American Foreign Policy	
AFAM/HIST 465	The Post-World War II Civil Rights Movement	
AFR 202N	Women, Gender, and Feminisms in Africa	
CMLIT 3	Introduction to African Literatures	
CMLIT 422	African Drama	
CMLIT 423	African Novel	
FR 458	African Literature of French Expression	
HIST 479	History of Imperialism and Nationalism in Africa	
SWA 1	Elementary Swahili I	
SWA 2	Elementary Swahili II	
2. Social Science Perspective		
AAAS 404		

AFAM 431	Black Liberation and American Foreign Policy
AFAM/HIST 465	The Post-World War II Civil Rights Movement
AFR 202N	Women, Gender, and Feminisms in Africa
AFR 403	South Africa Today
ECON 304	Intermediate Macroeconomic Analysis
ECON 471	Growth and Development
GEOG 444	Resource Governance in Africa
PLSC 453	Political Processes in Underdeveloped Systems
SWA 1	Elementary Swahili I
SWA 2	Elementary Swahili II

¹ A minimum of 12 credits should be AAA S courses, and at least 12 of these credits must be at the 400 level or above.

Law and Social Justice Option (33 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
AFAM/HIST 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
CRIM 100	Introduction to Criminal Justice	3
CRIM 451	Race, Crime, and Justice	3
CRIMJ/CRIM/ SOC 12	Criminology	3
CRIMJ/CRIM 113	Introduction to Law	3
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 15 credits of the following:		15
AFAM/SOC 409	Racial and Ethnic Inequality in America	
AFAM/HIST 431	Black Liberation and American Foreign Policy	
AFAM/LER/ PLSC 445Y		
AFAM 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.

B.A. Degree Requirements

World Language (0-12 credits): Student must attain 12th credit level of proficiency in one world language in addition to English. This proficiency must be demonstrated by either examination or course work. See the Placement Policy for Penn State World Language Courses (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/advising-planning-degree-program/course-placements/placement-policy-world-language-courses/>).

B.A. Fields (9 credits): Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Arts, World Languages, Natural Sciences, Quantification (may not be taken in the area of the student's primary major; world language credits in this category must be in a second world language in addition to English or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the first language). Credits must be selected from the list of approved courses.

World Cultures (0-3 credits): Select 3 credits from approved list. Students may count courses in this category in order to meet other major, minor, elective, or General Education requirements, except for the University Cultural Diversity (US/IL) requirement.