

# AFRICAN AND AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES, B.S.

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 Science degree in African and African American Studies, a minimum of 120 credits is required:**

| Requirement                | Credits |
|----------------------------|---------|
| General Education          | 45      |
| Electives                  | 20      |
| Requirements for the Major | 64-65   |

**4-10 of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes: 4 credits of GQ courses; 6 credits of GS courses.**

Per Senate Policy 83-80.5, 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. 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                                          |                                 |         |
| Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better          |                                 |         |
| AFAM 100N                                                   | Black Freedom Struggles         | 3       |
| AFR 110                                                     |                                 | 3       |
| SOC 207                                                     | Research Methods in Sociology   | 3       |
| STAT 200                                                    | Elementary Statistics           | 4       |
| Additional Courses                                          |                                 |         |
| Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better          |                                 |         |
| SOC 470                                                     | Intermediate Social Statistics  | 3-4     |
| or PLSC 309                                                 | Quantitative Political Analysis |         |
| Requirements for the Option                                 |                                 |         |
| Requirements for the Option: Require a grade of C or better |                                 |         |
| Select an option                                            |                                 | 48      |

### Requirements for the Option African American Studies Option

| Code                                                                                         | Title                                                                                          | Credits |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| <b>Prescribed Courses</b>                                                                    |                                                                                                |         |
| <i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>                                    |                                                                                                |         |
| AFAM 101                                                                                     |                                                                                                | 3       |
| AFAM/HIST 211                                                                                | Slavery and Freedom in the Black Atlantic                                                      | 3       |
| AFAM 401                                                                                     | Afro-American Studies Seminar                                                                  | 3       |
| <b>Additional Courses</b>                                                                    |                                                                                                |         |
| <i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>                                    |                                                                                                |         |
| Select 21 credits with at least 3 credits in AAAS courses of the following:                  |                                                                                                | 21      |
| AFAM 83                                                                                      | First-Year Seminar in African American Studies                                                 |         |
| AFAM/WMNST 102                                                                               | Women of the African Diaspora                                                                  |         |
| AFAM/SOC/WMNST 103                                                                           | Racism and Sexism                                                                              |         |
| 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 |         |
| AFR 197                                                                                      | Special Topics                                                                                 |         |
| AFR 199                                                                                      | Foreign Studies                                                                                |         |
| ECON 102                                                                                     | Introductory Microeconomic Analysis and Policy                                                 |         |
| ECON 104                                                                                     | Introductory Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy                                                 |         |
| ECON 304                                                                                     | Intermediate Macroeconomic Analysis                                                            |         |
| SOC 119                                                                                      |                                                                                                |         |
| Select 18 credits at the 400-level with at least 9 credits in AAAS courses of the following: |                                                                                                | 18      |
| AAAS 494                                                                                     |                                                                                                |         |
| AFAM/SOC 409                                                                                 | Racial and Ethnic Inequality in America                                                        |         |
| AFAM 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                                                             |         |
| AFR 495                                                                                      | Internship                                                                                     |         |
| AFR 497                                                                                      | Special Topics                                                                                 |         |
| AFR 499                                                                                      | Foreign Studies                                                                                |         |
| CRIMJ 451                                                                                    | Race, Crime, and Justice                                                                       |         |
| ECON 436W                                                                                    |                                                                                                |         |
| EDTHP 447                                                                                    | Ethnic Minorities and Schools in the United States                                             |         |
| PLSC 490                                                                                     | Policy Making and Evaluation                                                                   |         |

### African Studies Option

| Code                                                      | Title                  | Credits |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|---------|
| <b>Prescribed Courses</b>                                 |                        |         |
| <i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i> |                        |         |
| AAAS 400                                                  |                        | 3       |
| AFR 191                                                   | Early African History  | 3       |
| AFR 192                                                   | Modern African History | 3       |
| <b>Additional Courses</b>                                 |                        |         |

*Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better*

Select 21 credits with at least 3 credits of AAAS courses of the following: 21

|          |                                                |
|----------|------------------------------------------------|
| AAAS 397 |                                                |
| AFAM 83  | First-Year Seminar in African American Studies |
| AFAM 211 | Slavery and Freedom in the Black Atlantic      |
| AFR 197  | Special Topics                                 |
| AFR 199  | Foreign Studies                                |
| AFR 202N | Women, Gender, and Feminisms in Africa         |
| AFR 297  | Special Topics                                 |
| AFR 299  | Foreign Studies                                |
| AFR 395  | Internship                                     |
| AFR 399  | Foreign Studies                                |
| ECON 102 | Introductory Microeconomic Analysis and Policy |
| ECON 104 | Introductory Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy |
| ECON 304 | Intermediate Macroeconomic Analysis            |
| SWA 1    | Elementary Swahili I                           |
| SWA 2    | Elementary Swahili II                          |

Select 18 credits at the 400-level with at least 9 credits in AAAS courses of the following: <sup>1</sup> 18

|                        |                                               |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| AAAS 494               |                                               |
| AFAM 431               | Black Liberation and American Foreign Policy  |
| AFAM/LER/<br>PLSC 445Y |                                               |
| AFAM 465               | The Post-World War II Civil Rights Movement   |
| AFR 403                | South Africa Today                            |
| AFR 440                | Globalization and Its Implications            |
| AFR 443                | Ethnic Conflict in Africa                     |
| AFR 454                | Government and Politics of Africa             |
| AFR 495                | Internship                                    |
| AFR 497                | Special Topics                                |
| AFR 499                | Foreign Studies                               |
| ECON 471               | Growth and Development                        |
| GEOG 444               | Resource Governance in Africa                 |
| PLSC 453               | Political Processes in Underdeveloped Systems |

<sup>1</sup> Only 3 credits of Internship (AFR 495) (internship) and 6 credits of Special Topics (AFR 497), Internship (AFR 495), AAAS 494, or Foreign Studies (AFR 499) in any combination may be used to satisfy this requirement.

**Law and Social Justice Option**

| Code                                                      | Title                                                                                          | Credits |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| <b>Prescribed Courses</b>                                 |                                                                                                |         |
| <i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i> |                                                                                                |         |
| AFAM 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       |
| CRIMJ/CRIM/<br>SOC 12                                     | Criminology                                                                                    | 3       |
| CRIMJ/CRIM 100                                            | Introduction to Criminal Justice                                                               | 3       |
| CRIMJ/CRIM 113                                            | Introduction to Law                                                                            | 3       |
| CRIMJ/CRIM 451                                            | Race, Crime, and Justice                                                                       | 3       |
| <b>Additional Courses</b>                                 |                                                                                                |         |

*Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better*

Select 30 credits of the following: 30

|                        |                                              |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| AFAM 409               | Racial and Ethnic Inequality in America      |
| AFAM/HIST<br>431       | Black Liberation and American Foreign Policy |
| AFAM/LER/<br>PLSC 445Y |                                              |
| AFAM/HIST<br>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/<br>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.