

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 American Studies, a minimum of 120 credits is required:

Requirement	Credits
General Education	45
Electives	15-21
Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements	24
Requirements for the Major	36

0-6 of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes: 0-3 credits of GS courses; and 0-3 credits of GH 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 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/>).

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
AFAM 100N	Black Freedom Struggles	3
AFAM 110N	Introduction to African American Studies	3
AFAM/HIST 152	African American History	3
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 3 credits from the following:		3
AFAM/ WMNST 101N	African American Women	
AFAM/ WMNST 102	Women of the African Diaspora	
AFAM 103	Racism and Sexism	

Select 3 credits from the following: 3

AFAM 197	Special Topics
SOC 207	Research Methods in Sociology ¹

Select 3 credits from the following: 3

AFAM 401	Afro-American Studies Seminar
AFAM 494	Research Project
AFAM 495	Internship

Area of Concentration

Select 12 credits from one of the following four areas of concentration, and 6 more credits from any of the other areas. A minimum of 12 credits should be AFAM courses, and at least 12 of these credits must be at the 400-level or above. ² 18

1. Gender and Sexuality

AFAM/ WMNST 101N	African American Women
AFAM/ WMNST 102	Women of the African Diaspora
AFAM/SOC/ WMNST 103	Racism and Sexism
AFAM 410	Spirit, Space, Survival: Contemporary Black Women

AFAM/THEA 412	African American Theatre
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AFAM/STS 416	Race, Gender and Science
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AFR/WMNST 202N	Women, Gender, and Feminisms in Africa
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Select 3 credits at the 400-level in consultation with your adviser

2. Humanities

AFAM/RLST 145	African Diaspora Religions and Spiritualities
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AFAM/RLST 146	The Life and Thought of Martin Luther King, Jr.
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AFAM/RLST 147	The Life and Thought of Malcolm X
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AFAM/THEA 208	Workshop: Theatre in Diverse Cultures
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AFAM/HIST 210	Freedom's First Generation: African American Life and Work, from the Civil War to World War II
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AFAM 212	African Americans in the New Jim Crow Era, 1968-present
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AFAM/ENGL 235	From Folk Shouts and Songs to Hip Hop Poetry
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AFAM/THEA 412	African American Theatre
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AFAM/CAS 422	Contemporary African American Communication
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AFAM/PHIL 460	African American Philosophy
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AFAM/HIST 465	The Post-World War II Civil Rights Movement
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AFAM/ENGL 469	Slavery and the Literary Imagination
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3. Social Sciences and Community Development

AFAM/BBH 302	Diversity and Health
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AFAM/SOC 409	Racial and Ethnic Inequality in America
AFAM/HIST 431	Black Liberation and American Foreign Policy
AFAM/HIST 432	Between Nation and Empire: The Caribbean in the 20th Century
AFAM/PLSC/ LER 445Y	
AFR/PLSC 459	
ECON 436W	
EDTHP/SOC 447	Ethnic Minorities and Schools in the United States
PLSC 223N	Ethnic and Racial Politics
PLSC 490	Policy Making and Evaluation
SOC 119N	Race, Ethnicity and Culture

4. Migration and Diaspora

AFAM/ WMNST 102	Women of the African Diaspora
AFAM/SPAN/ AFR 132	Afro-Hispanic Civilization
AFAM/HIST 211	Slavery and Freedom in the Black Atlantic
AFAM/HIST 250	Introduction to the Caribbean
AFAM/HIST 431	Black Liberation and American Foreign Policy
AFAM/HIST 432	Between Nation and Empire: The Caribbean in the 20th Century
AFR 110N	Introduction to Contemporary Africa
AFR/HIST 192	Modern African History
AFR/IB/PLSC 440	Globalization and Its Implications
AFR 497	Special Topics
PLSC 453	Political Processes in Underdeveloped Systems

¹ SOC 207 is recommended for Political Science, Sociology and HHD-related double majors.

² If you wish to receive credit for courses other than the ones listed, you must seek permission from the AFAM undergraduate director.

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.