

# AFRO-AMERICAN STUDIES, B.S.

The Department of Afro-American Studies at the University of Wisconsin–Madison offers students an opportunity to study those aspects of black history, culture, and society in ideal interdisciplinary models that reconstruct Afro-American life. It challenges students to critically examine facts and issues that are historically and contemporaneously relevant to the Afro-American experience.

The department offers undergraduate majors in five areas: literature and culture; theater, music and the visual arts; history; Black Women’s studies; and inter-group relations. The M.A. program is based on personalized programs of study shaped to meet the needs of individual students, many of whom participate in the “Bridge” programs which enable them to move directly into Ph.D. programs in English and history. Faculty members and students are active in a broad range of activities, including hip-hop programs for at-risk youth, community theater, college classes for low-income adults, and various support activities for the National Voting Rights Museum in Selma, Alabama. The department prides itself on positive working relationships with our colleagues in traditional disciplines as well as the Women’s Studies Program and the Department of African Cultural Studies. A vibrant community of scholars and students who believe in the ideal of unity without uniformity, we welcome all those committed to the deeper understanding of race in America and the world.

## HOW TO GET IN

Students should inform the Department of Afro-American Studies Office of their intention to major and be assigned an advisor within the department.

## REQUIREMENTS

### UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin–Madison are required to fulfill a minimum set of common university general education requirements to ensure that every graduate acquires the essential core of an undergraduate education. This core establishes a foundation for living a productive life, being a citizen of the world, appreciating aesthetic values, and engaging in lifelong learning in a continually changing world. Various schools and colleges will have requirements in addition to the requirements listed below. Consult your advisor for assistance, as needed. For additional information, see the university Undergraduate General Education Requirements (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatestudytext>) section of the *Guide*.

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| General Education | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breadth—Humanities/Literature/Arts: 6 credits</li> <li>• Breadth—Natural Science: 4 to 6 credits, consisting of one 4- or 5-credit course with a laboratory component; or two courses providing a total of 6 credits</li> <li>• Breadth—Social Studies: 3 credits</li> <li>• Communication Part A &amp; Part B *</li> <li>• Ethnic Studies *</li> <li>• Quantitative Reasoning Part A &amp; Part B *</li> </ul> |
|-------------------|--|

\* The mortarboard symbol appears before the title of any course that fulfills one of the Communication Part A or Part B, Ethnic Studies, or Quantitative Reasoning Part A or Part B requirements.

## COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE BREADTH AND DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (B.S.)

Students pursuing a bachelor of science degree in the College of Letters & Science must complete all of the requirements below. The College of Letters & Science allows this major to be paired with either a bachelor of arts or a bachelor of science curriculum. View a comparison of the degree requirements here. (<https://pubs.wisc.edu/home/archives/ug15/images/babs2009.pdf>)

### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Mathematics      | Two (2) 3+ credits of intermediate/advanced level MATH, COMP SCI, STAT<br>Limit one each: COMP SCI, STAT   |
| Foreign Language | Complete the third unit of a foreign language<br>Note: A unit is one year of high school work or one semester/term of college work.  |
| L&S Breadth      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Humanities, 12 credits: 6 of the 12 credits must be in literature</li> <li>• Social Sciences, 12 credits</li> <li>• Natural Sciences, 12 credits: must include 6 credits in biological science; and must include 6 credits in physical science</li> </ul> |

Liberal Arts and Science Coursework	108 credits
Depth of Intermediate/Advanced work	60 intermediate or advanced credits
Major	Declare and complete at least one (1) major
Total Credits	120 credits
UW-Madison Experience	30 credits in residence, overall 30 credits in residence after the 90th credit
Minimum GPAs	2.000 in all coursework at UW–Madison 2.000 in intermediate/advanced coursework at UW–Madison

### NON–L&S STUDENTS PURSUING AN L&S MAJOR

Non–L&S students who have permission from their school/college to pursue an additional major within L&S *only need to fulfill the major requirements* and do not need to complete the L&S breadth and

degree requirements above. Please note that the following special degree programs are not considered majors so are not available to non-L&S-degree-seeking candidates:

- Applied Mathematics, Engineering and Physics (Bachelor of Science–Applied Mathematics, Engineering and Physics)
- Journalism (Bachelor of Arts–Journalism; Bachelor of Science–Journalism)
- Music (Bachelor of Music)
- Social Work (Bachelor of Social Work)

## REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR

The major in Afro-American studies requires a **minimum of 30 credits** and one area of concentration, plus electives as follows:<sup>1</sup>

- <sup>1</sup> Electives may be taken from any concentration area. A maximum 9 credits in Directed Study (AFROAMER 199, AFROAMER 699) may apply.

### AFRO-AMERICAN CULTURE: CHOOSE AN EMPHASIS

#### Literature

Code	Title	Credits
Two courses from:		6
AFROAMER 155	They: Race in American Literature	
AFROAMER/ GEN&WS 222	Introduction to Black Women Writers	
AFROAMER 227	Masterpieces of African American Literature	
AFROAMER 265	African-American Autobiography	
One course from:		3
AFROAMER 154	Hip-Hop and Contemporary American Society	
AFROAMER 156	Black Music and American Cultural History	
AFROAMER 225	Introduction to African American Dramatic Literature	
AFROAMER/ ART HIST 241	Introduction to African Art and Architecture	
AFROAMER/ ART HIST 242	Introduction to Afro-American Art	
AFROAMER/ GEN&WS 367	Art and Visual Culture: Women of the African Diaspora and Africa	
AFROAMER 456	Soul Music and the African American Freedom Movement	
Three courses from:		9
AFROAMER 337	The Harlem Renaissance	
AFROAMER 338	The Black Arts Movement	
AFROAMER 525	Major Authors	
AFROAMER 605	Critical and Theoretical Issues in Afro-American Literature	
AFROAMER/ ENGL 672	Selected Topics in Afro-American Literature	
AFROAMER 675	Selected Topics in Afro-American Culture	

AFROAMER/ GEN&WS 677	Critical and Theoretical Perspectives in Black Women's Writings	
Total Credits		18
<b>The Arts</b>		
<b>Code</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>
Two courses from:		6
AFROAMER 154	Hip-Hop and Contemporary American Society	
AFROAMER 156	Black Music and American Cultural History	
AFROAMER 225	Introduction to African American Dramatic Literature	
AFROAMER/ ART HIST 241	Introduction to African Art and Architecture	
AFROAMER/ ART HIST 242	Introduction to Afro-American Art	
AFROAMER/ GEN&WS 367	Art and Visual Culture: Women of the African Diaspora and Africa	
One course from:		3
AFROAMER 155	They: Race in American Literature	
AFROAMER/ GEN&WS 222	Introduction to Black Women Writers	
AFROAMER 227	Masterpieces of African American Literature	
AFROAMER 265	African-American Autobiography	
Three courses from:		9
AFROAMER/ GEN&WS 267	Artistic/Cultural Images of Black Women	
AFROAMER 303	Blacks, Film, and Society	
AFROAMER 337	The Harlem Renaissance	
AFROAMER 338	The Black Arts Movement	
AFROAMER 456	Soul Music and the African American Freedom Movement	
AFROAMER/ MUSIC 509	Seminar in Afro-American Music History and Criticism	
AFROAMER/ ART 674	Selected Topics on Afro-American Artists	
AFROAMER 675	Selected Topics in Afro-American Culture	
AFROAMER/ GEN&WS 679	Visual Culture, Gender and Critical Race Theory	
Total Credits		18

### AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORY

Code	Title	Credits
One course from:		3-4
AFROAMER 231	Introduction to Afro-American History	
AFROAMER 272	Race and American Politics from the New Deal to the New Right	
AFROAMER/ AFRICAN/ HISTORY/ POLI SCI 297	African and African-American Linkages: An Introduction	

AFROAMER/ HISTORY 347	The Caribbean and its Diasporas	
Two courses from:		6
AFROAMER 302	Undergraduate Studies in Afro-American History	
AFROAMER 303	Blacks, Film, and Society	
AFROAMER/ GEN&WS 324	Black Women in America: Reconstruction to the Present	
AFROAMER/ GEN&WS 326	Race and Gender in Post-World War II U.S. Society	
AFROAMER 456	Soul Music and the African American Freedom Movement	
AFROAMER/ HISTORY 628	History of the Civil Rights Movement in the United States	
Three courses from:		9
AFROAMER/ HISTORY 321	Afro-American History Since 1900	
AFROAMER/ HISTORY 322	Afro-American History to 1900	
AFROAMER/ HISTORY 393	Slavery, Civil War, and Reconstruction, 1848-1877	
AFROAMER/ GEN&WS 624	African American Women's Activism (19th & 20th Centuries)	
AFROAMER 631	Colloquium in Afro-American History	
AFROAMER 671	Selected Topics in Afro-American History	
Total Credits		18-19

## AFRO-AMERICAN SOCIETY: CHOOSE AN EMPHASIS

### Black Women's Studies

Code	Title	Credits
AFROAMER/ GEN&WS 221	Introduction to Black Women's Studies	3
Two courses from:		6
AFROAMER/ GEN&WS 222	Introduction to Black Women Writers	
AFROAMER 302	Undergraduate Studies in Afro-American History	
AFROAMER/ GEN&WS 323	Gender, Race and Class: Women in U.S. History	
AFROAMER/ GEN&WS 324	Black Women in America: Reconstruction to the Present	
AFROAMER/ GEN&WS 326	Race and Gender in Post-World War II U.S. Society	
AFROAMER/ GEN&WS 367	Art and Visual Culture: Women of the African Diaspora and Africa	
Three courses from:		9
AFROAMER/ GEN&WS 267	Artistic/Cultural Images of Black Women	
AFROAMER/ GEN&WS 624	African American Women's Activism (19th & 20th Centuries)	
AFROAMER/ GEN&WS 625	Gender, Race and the Civil Rights Movement	

AFROAMER/ GEN&WS 677	Critical and Theoretical Perspectives in Black Women's Writings	
AFROAMER/ GEN&WS 679	Visual Culture, Gender and Critical Race Theory	
Total Credits		18

### Intergroup Relations

Code	Title	Credits
AFROAMER 151	Introduction to Contemporary Afro-American Society	3
Two courses from:		6
AFROAMER/ GEN&WS 323	Gender, Race and Class: Women in U.S. History	
AFROAMER/ ASIAN AM 443	Mutual Perceptions of Racial Minorities	
Three courses from:		9
AFROAMER/ ANTHRO/ C&E SOC/GEORG/ HISTORY/LACIS/ POLI SCI/SOC/ SPANISH 260	Latin America: An Introduction	
AFROAMER/ POLI SCI 519	African American Political Theory	
AFROAMER/ HDFS/ SOC WORK 521	African American Families	
AFROAMER 673	Selected Topics in Afro-American Society	
Total Credits		18

## RESIDENCE & QUALITY OF WORK IN THE MAJOR

2.000 GPA in all AFROAMER and major courses

2.000 GPA on at least 15 credits of upper-level work in the major, in residence<sup>2</sup>

15 credits in AFROAMER, taken on the UW-Madison campus

<sup>2</sup> Upper-level in the major includes AFROAMER courses numbered 300 and above and courses that count for the major that are designated as Intermediate or Advanced level.

## DISTINCTION

### Distinction in the Major

Afro-American studies majors not enrolled for Honors in the Major may receive the "Distinction in the Major" notation on the transcript by earning a 3.750 grade point average in major courses and successfully completing the AFROAMER 691-AFROAMER 692 Senior Thesis project.

### Thesis of Distinction

The award Thesis of Distinction is granted for an exceptionally good or original thesis, without consideration of the student's record in other work. A committee of at least two faculty members will evaluate the thesis and recommend to the dean the granting of this award when appropriate.

## HONORS IN THE MAJOR

Students may declare Honors in the Afro-American Studies Major in consultation with the Afro-American Studies undergraduate advisor(s).

### HONORS IN THE AFRO-AMERICAN STUDIES MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

To earn Honors in the Major in Afro-American Studies, students must satisfy both the requirements for the major (above) and the following additional requirements:

- 3.300 University GPA
- 3.500 GPA in all AFROAMER courses, and all courses accepted in the major
- Complete at least one course with a cross-cultural or comparative focus:

Code	Title	Credits
AFROAMER/ ART HIST 241	Introduction to African Art and Architecture	3
AFROAMER/ ANTHRO/C&E SOC/ GEOG/HISTORY/ LACIS/POLI SCI/ SOC/SPANISH 260	Latin America: An Introduction	3-4
AFROAMER/ AFRICAN/ANTHRO/ GEOG/HISTORY/ POLI SCI/SOC 277	Africa: An Introductory Survey	4
AFROAMER/ AFRICAN/HISTORY/ POLI SCI 297	African and African-American Linkages: An Introduction	4
AFROAMER/ HISTORY 347	The Caribbean and its Diasporas	3
AFROAMER/ AFRICAN 413	Contemporary African and Caribbean Drama	3-4
AFROAMER/ ASIAN AM 443	Mutual Perceptions of Racial Minorities	3

- Complete at least 15 credits in AFROAMER at the 500 or 600 level, to include a two-semester Senior Honors Thesis in AFROAMER 681 and AFROAMER 682, for a total of 6 credits.

## UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

**Total Degree** To receive a bachelor's degree from UW–Madison, students must earn a minimum of 120 degree credits. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 degree credits. Students should consult with their college or department advisor for information on specific credit requirements.

**Residency** Degree candidates are required to earn a minimum of 30 credits in residence at UW–Madison. "In residence" means on the UW–Madison campus with an undergraduate degree classification. "In residence" credit also includes UW–Madison courses offered in distance or online formats and credits earned in UW–Madison Study Abroad/Study Away programs.

**Quality of Work**

Undergraduate students must maintain the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, or academic program to remain in good academic standing. Students whose academic performance drops below these minimum thresholds will be placed on academic probation.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Familiar with the history, culture and social conditions of African Americans in the United States and, secondarily, in the African diaspora.
2. Prepared to interact effectively in a multicultural world.
3. Prepared to share the results of academic research in the area of race with their communities in Wisconsin, the U.S., and the world.
4. Prepared for careers working in institutions that address the needs of multicultural communities.
5. Develop an understanding of the connection between different disciplinary approaches to the study of race.

## ADVISING AND CAREERS

### ADVISING

The Department of Afro-American Studies encourages our majors to begin working on their career exploration and preparation soon after arriving on campus. We partner with SuccessWorks at the College of Letters & Science. L&S graduates are in high demand by employers and graduate programs. It is important to us that our students are career ready at the time of graduation, and we are committed to your success.

**Professor Sandra Adell, Undergraduate and Certificate advisor in the major**

saadell@wisc.edu  
608-262-0425  
4115 Helen C. White Hall

### CAREERS

**Afro-American Studies Main Office:**

Department of Afro-American Studies  
4141 Helen C. White Hall  
600 North Park Street, Madison, WI 53706  
Phone: 608-263-1642; Fax: 608-263-7198

### L&S CAREER RESOURCES

SuccessWorks at the College of Letters & Science helps students leverage the academic skills learned in their major, certificates, and liberal arts degree; explore and try out different career paths; participate in internships; prepare for the job search and/or graduate school applications; and network with professionals in the field (alumni and employers).

SuccessWorks can also assist students in career advising, résumé and cover letter writing, networking opportunities, and interview skills, as well as course offerings for undergraduates to begin their career exploration early in their undergraduate career.

- SuccessWorks (<https://careers.ls.wisc.edu>)

- Set up a career advising appointment (<https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/make-an-appointment>)
- INTER-LS 210 L&S Career Development: Taking Initiative (1 credit, targeted to first- and second-year students)—for more information, see Inter-LS 210: Career Development, Taking Initiative (<https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/inter-ls-210-career-development-taking-initiative>)
- Learn how we're transforming career preparation: L&S Career Initiative (<http://ls.wisc.edu/lsci>)

## PEOPLE

Professors Adell, Drewal, Greene, Plummer, Thornton, Werner

Associate Professor Clark-Pujara

Assistant Professors Almiron, Brown, Davis