

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES, B.A.

The mission of the Department of African Cultural Studies is to research and teach the languages and expressive cultures of Africa and Africans around the world. This includes work at the graduate and undergraduate levels, and emphasizes the development and application of analytical, linguistic, and methodological tools that enable students to work effectively and imaginatively across regions, languages, cultural forms, methodologies, and disciplines.

Undergraduates study one of six languages offered by the department—Arabic, Hausa, Swahili, Wolof, Yoruba, and Zulu—and combine their language study with popular courses in the humanities, literature, and ethnic studies. The department's undergraduate courses cover a wide range of topics, including introductory African literature and storytelling, contemporary cinema and music, and social issues ranging from gender and sexuality to whiteness to diasporic internet use.

Majors are encouraged to study abroad in Africa during their undergraduate careers. Study abroad programs sponsored by UW—Madison include semesters or full years in Morocco, Senegal, South Africa, Ghana, and other African nations. Other programs are available through different institutions. See International Academic Programs (<http://www.studyabroad.wisc.edu/>) and visit the Majors Advising Page (<https://studyabroad.wisc.edu/academics/major-advising-pages-maps/african-cultural-studies/>).

For more information, students should feel free to contact the Department of African Cultural Studies (<http://african.wisc.edu/>).

HOW TO GET IN

ENROLLMENT GUIDANCE

Students with prior language study or experience as a speaker of Arabic, Hausa, Swahili, Wolof, Yoruba, or Zulu should contact the Undergraduate Advisor in the African Cultural Studies department for enrollment guidance.

DECLARING THE MAJOR

Declaring the major in African Cultural Studies is as easy as meeting with the advisor. Find the African Cultural Studies advisor on Starfish (<https://advising.wisc.edu/facstaff/starfish/starfish-student-resources/>).

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/#requirementsforundergraduatetext>) section of the *Guide*.

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| General Education | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breadth—Humanities/Literature/Arts: 6 credits • 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 • Breadth—Social Studies: 3 credits • Communication Part A & Part B * • Ethnic Studies * • Quantitative Reasoning Part A & Part B * |
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* 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 DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.)

Students pursuing a bachelor of arts 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.

BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Mathematics Complete the University General Education Requirements for Quantitative Reasoning A (QR-A) and Quantitative Reasoning B (QR-B) coursework.

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| Foreign Language | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the fourth unit of a foreign language; OR • Complete the third unit of a foreign language and the second unit of an additional foreign language. |
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| L&S Breadth | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 credits of Humanities, which must include 6 credits of literature; and • 12 credits of Social Science; and • 12 credits of Natural Science, which must include one 3+ credit Biological Science course and one 3+ credit Physical Science course. |
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|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Liberal Arts and Science Coursework | Complete at least 108 credits. |
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| Depth of Intermediate/Advanced work | Complete at least 60 credits at the intermediate or advanced level. |
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| Major | Declare and complete at least one major. |
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|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Total Credits | Complete at least 120 credits. |
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| UW-Madison Experience | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 credits in residence, overall; and • 30 credits in residence after the 86th credit. |
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| Quality of Work | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.000 in all coursework at UW—Madison • 2.000 in Intermediate/Advanced level coursework at UW—Madison |
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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. They do not need to complete the L&S Degree Requirements above.

Principal African languages taught by the department are Arabic, Hausa, Swahili, Wolof, Yoruba, and Zulu. The program supports the study of various other African languages through courses and/or individualized study.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR

30 credits and seven courses as follows:

LANGUAGE

| Code | Title | Credits |
|---|---|----------|
| 4th unit of one African language | | 4 |
| AFRICAN 324 | Fourth Semester Arabic | |
| AFRICAN 334 | Fourth Semester Swahili | |
| AFRICAN 338 | Fourth Semester-A Language of Southern Africa | |
| AFRICAN 342 | Fourth Semester Summer Arabic | |
| AFRICAN 374 | Fourth Semester Yoruba | |
| AFRICAN 394 | Fourth Semester-A Language of West Africa | |
| Total Credits | | 4 |

LITERATURE/CULTURE STUDIES

| Code | Title | Credits |
|---|---|------------|
| Core course: | | 3 |
| AFRICAN 100 | Introduction to African Cultural Expression | |
| Two courses in literature/culture at the Intermediate level (or higher): | | 6-8 |
| AFRICAN 211 | The African Autobiography | |
| AFRICAN/ FOLKLORE 270 | The Hero and Trickster in African Oral Traditions | |
| AFRICAN/ AFROAMER/ ANTHRO/GEOG/ HISTORY/ POLI SCI/ SOC 277 | Africa: An Introductory Survey | |
| AFRICAN 300 | African Literature in Translation | |
| AFRICAN/ INTL ST 302 | Arabic Literature and Cinema | |
| AFRICAN 303 | African Literature and Visual Culture | |
| AFRICAN/ASIAN/ RELIG ST 370 | Islam: Religion and Culture | |
| AFRICAN 402 | Theory of African Literature | |
| AFRICAN 406 | Topics in African Literature | |
| AFRICAN 407 | Topics in African Languages | |
| AFRICAN 409 | Topics in US and Global Black Music Studies | |
| AFRICAN 412 | Contemporary African Fiction | |

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| AFRICAN/ AFROAMER 413 | Contemporary African and Caribbean Drama |
| AFRICAN/ FRENCH 440 | African/Francophone Film |
| AFRICAN/ PORTUG 451 | Lusophone African Literature |
| AFRICAN 453 | Modern African Literature in English |
| AFRICAN/ FOLKLORE 471 | Oral Traditions and the Written Word |
| AFRICAN 500 | Language and Society in Africa |
| AFRICAN 501 | Structure and Analysis of African Languages |
| AFRICAN 605 | Advanced Topics in African Cultural Studies |
| AFRICAN 606 | Advanced Topics in African Literature |
| AFRICAN 609 | Advanced Topics in Global Black Music Studies |
| AFRICAN 681 | Senior Honors Thesis |
| AFRICAN 682 | Senior Honors Thesis |
| AFRICAN 698 | Directed Study |
| AFRICAN 699 | Directed Study |
| AFROAMER 302 | Undergraduate Studies in Afro-American History |
| AFROAMER/ DANCE/ MUSIC 318 | Cultural Cross Currents: West African Dance/Music in the Americas |
| AFROAMER/ HISTORY 347 | The Caribbean and its Diasporas |
| AFROAMER/ GEN&WS 367 | Art and Visual Culture: Women of the African Diaspora and Africa |
| A A E/ECON 477 | Agricultural and Economic Development in Africa |
| ANTHRO 333 | Prehistory of Africa |
| ART HIST 479 | Art and History in Africa |
| ART HIST 579 | Proseminar in African Art |
| DANCE/ AFROAMER/ MUSIC 318 | Cultural Cross Currents: West African Dance/Music in the Americas |
| ECON/A A E 477 | Agricultural and Economic Development in Africa |
| GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 367 | Art and Visual Culture: Women of the African Diaspora and Africa |
| GEN&WS/ POLI SCI 429 | Gender and Politics in Comparative Perspective |
| GEOG 355 | Africa, South of the Sahara |
| HISTORY 278 | Africans in the Americas, 1492-1808 |
| HISTORY 279 | Afro-Atlantic History, 1808-Present |
| HISTORY 377 | History of Africa, 1500 to 1870 |
| HISTORY 444 | History of East Africa |
| HISTORY 445 | History of Equatorial Africa |
| LITTRANS 226 | Introduction to Luso-Afro-Brazilian Literature |
| LITTRANS 334 | In Translation: The Art of Isak Dinesen/Karen Blixen |

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| MUSIC/ AFROAMER/ DANCE 318 | Cultural Cross Currents: West African Dance/Music in the Americas |
| POLI SCI 329 | African Politics |
| POLI SCI/ GEN&WS 429 | Gender and Politics in Comparative Perspective |
| POLI SCI 455 | African International Relations |
| Two additional courses in literature/culture at any level, including those above or from: | |
| | 6-8 |
| AFRICAN 201 | Introduction to African Literature |
| AFRICAN 202 | Introductory Topics in African Cultural Studies |
| AFRICAN 203 | Introductory Topics in African Literature |
| AFRICAN 204 | Introductory Topics in African Languages |
| AFRICAN/ FOLKLORE 210 | The African Storyteller |
| AFRICAN 212 | Introduction to African Popular Culture |
| AFRICAN/ FRENCH 216 | Modern and Contemporary Francophone Topics |
| AFRICAN/ AFROAMER 220 | HipHop, Youth Culture, and Politics in Senegal |
| AFRICAN 230 | Introduction to Yoruba Life and Culture |
| AFRICAN 231 | Introduction to Arabic Literary Culture |
| AFRICAN 232 | Introduction to Swahili Cultures |
| AFRICAN/ AFROAMER 233 | Global HipHop and Social Justice |
| AFRICAN/ AFROAMER/ HISTORY/ POLI SCI 297 | African and African-American Linkages: An Introduction |
| AFROAMER/ GEN&WS 221 | Introduction to Black Women's Studies |
| AFROAMER/ ART HIST 241 | Introduction to African Art and Architecture |
| AFROAMER/ GEN&WS 267 | Artistic/Cultural Images of Black Women |
| ART HIST/ AFROAMER 241 | Introduction to African Art and Architecture |
| GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 221 | Introduction to Black Women's Studies |
| GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 267 | Artistic/Cultural Images of Black Women |
| One from: | |
| | 3 |
| AFRICAN 405 | Topics in African Cultural Studies |
| AFRICAN 403 | Theories of African Cultural Studies |

Total Credits 18-22

ELECTIVES

Credits in addition to the required seven courses listed above to achieve 30 credits in the major.

| Code | Title | Credits |
|-------------|---|---------|
| AFRICAN 321 | First Semester Arabic | 5 |
| AFRICAN 322 | Second Semester Arabic | 5 |
| AFRICAN 323 | Third Semester Arabic | 4 |
| AFRICAN 331 | First Semester Swahili | 5 |
| AFRICAN 332 | Second Semester Swahili | 5 |
| AFRICAN 333 | Third Semester Swahili | 4 |
| AFRICAN 335 | First Semester-A Language of Southern Africa | 5 |
| AFRICAN 336 | Second Semester-A Language of Southern Africa | 4-5 |
| AFRICAN 337 | Third Semester-A Language of Southern Africa | 4 |
| AFRICAN 339 | First Semester Summer Arabic | 4 |
| AFRICAN 340 | Second Semester Summer Arabic | 4 |
| AFRICAN 341 | Third Semester Summer Arabic | 4 |
| AFRICAN 343 | Fifth Semester Summer Arabic | 4 |
| AFRICAN 344 | Sixth Semester Summer Arabic | 4 |
| AFRICAN 361 | First Semester Hausa | 5 |
| AFRICAN 362 | Second Semester Hausa | 4-5 |
| AFRICAN 371 | First Semester Yoruba | 5 |
| AFRICAN 372 | Second Semester Yoruba | 5 |
| AFRICAN 373 | Third Semester Yoruba | 4 |
| AFRICAN 391 | First Semester-A Language of West Africa | 5 |
| AFRICAN 392 | Second Semester-A Language of West Africa | 4-5 |
| AFRICAN 393 | Third Semester-A Language of West Africa | 4 |
| AFRICAN 475 | Fifth Semester Yoruba | 3 |
| AFRICAN 493 | Fifth Semester, A Language of Southern Africa | 3 |
| AFRICAN 495 | | 3 |
| AFRICAN 325 | Colloquial Arabic | 2 |
| AFRICAN 326 | Colloquial Arabic | 2 |
| AFRICAN 329 | Fifth Semester Arabic | 3 |
| AFRICAN 330 | Sixth Semester Arabic | 3 |
| AFRICAN 435 | Fifth Semester Swahili | 3 |
| AFRICAN 436 | Sixth Semester Swahili | 3 |
| AFRICAN 476 | Sixth Semester Yoruba | 3 |
| AFRICAN 494 | Sixth Semester, A Language of Southern Africa | 3 |
| AFRICAN 496 | | 3 |
| AFRICAN 681 | Senior Honors Thesis | 3 |
| AFRICAN 682 | Senior Honors Thesis | 3 |
| AFRICAN 698 | Directed Study | 1-6 |
| AFRICAN 699 | Directed Study | 1-6 |

RESIDENCE AND QUALITY OF WORK

- 2.000 GPA in all AFRICAN and major courses
- 2.000 GPA on 15 upper-level major credits, taken in residence¹
- 15 credits in AFRICAN, taken on the UW–Madison campus

HONORS IN THE MAJOR

Students may declare Honors in the African Cultural Studies Major in consultation with the African Cultural Studies undergraduate advisor. To be admitted to the Honors Program in African Cultural Studies, students must have achieved a 3.300 university GPA and a 3.300 GPA in all AFRICAN courses as well as all courses accepted in the major.

Honors in the African Cultural Studies Major Requirements

To earn a B.A. or B.S. with Honors in the Major in African Cultural Studies students must satisfy both the requirements for the major (above) and the following additional requirements:

1. Earn a 3.300 overall university GPA
2. Earn 3.300 GPA in all AFRICAN courses, and all courses accepted in the major
3. Complete a minimum of 15 credits in the major for Honors while in residence at UW–Madison from the following:
 - a. 9 credits in courses numbered 200 and above
 - b. A two-semester Senior Honors Thesis in AFRICAN 681 and AFRICAN 682, for a total of 6 credits.

FOOTNOTES

- ¹ Courses with Intermediate or Advanced level are considered upper level in this major.

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. (Content) Recognize canonical authors and texts, historical forms, genres, and structures, and recognize aesthetic and cultural concerns in Africa and its diasporas.
2. (Content) Demonstrate their understanding of major theories, approaches, concepts, and current and classical research findings in African and diaspora literary and cultural studies.
3. (Content) Develop a level of proficiency in the different "ways of knowing" Africa and the diaspora through language, literatures, and cultures.

4. (Research Skills) Understand their own learning processes and possess the capacity to intentionally seek, evaluate, and learn from information, and recognize and reduce bias in their thinking.
5. (Research Skills) Effectively retrieve and comprehend primary sources in English and African languages, and secondary sources from a range of disciplines.
6. (Communication Skills) Develop or improve speaking, listening, writing, reading skills in an African language, and integrate these skills to communicate effectively.
7. (Communication Skills) Communicate effectively through essays, oral presentations, and discussion, so they may share their knowledge, wisdom, and values with others across social and professional settings.
8. (Communication Skills) Show knowledge of conventional rhetorical strategies, and integrate research by other authors while distinguishing between their own ideas and those of others.
9. (Communication Skills) Write and speak across disciplinary boundaries with regard to existing research about Africa and the diaspora in the humanities and social sciences.
10. (Analytical Skills) Discuss cultural texts from various theoretical and critical perspectives, formulate ideas and make connections between literary/cultural concepts and themes.
11. (Analytical Skills) Demonstrate command of the terminology and methodology of cultural studies, construct complex arguments, and use primary and secondary sources to support arguments.

FOUR-YEAR PLAN

SAMPLE FOUR-YEAR PLAN

This Sample Four-Year Plan is a tool to assist students and their advisor(s). Students should use it—along with their DARS report, the Degree Planner, and Course Search & Enroll tools—to make their own four-year plan based on their placement scores, credit for transferred courses and approved examinations, and individual interests. As students become involved in athletics, honors, research, student organizations, study abroad, volunteer experiences, and/or work, they might adjust the order of their courses to accommodate these experiences. Students will likely revise their own four-year plan several times during college.

First Year

| Fall | Credits | Spring | Credits |
|---|-----------|--|-----------|
| First semester African language | | 5 Second semester African language | 5 |
| AFRICAN 100 | 3 | AFRICAN/AFROAMER 233 or 297 ¹ | 3 |
| Communication Part A (complete during first year) | 3 | Quantitative Reasoning Part A (complete during first year) | 3 |
| Biological Science Breadth | 3 | Physical Science Breadth | 3 |
| | 14 | | 14 |

Second Year

| Fall | Credits | Spring | Credits |
|---------------------------------|---------|------------------------------------|---------|
| Third semester African language | | 4 Fourth semester African language | 4 |

| | | |
|--|--|-----------|
| AFRICAN 201, 202, 203, or 204 ² | 3 One literature/culture course at intermediate/advanced level | 3 |
| Social Science Breadth | 3 Quantitative Reasoning Part B | 3 |
| Science Breadth | 3 Social Science Breadth | 3 |
| Elective | 3 Science Breadth | 3 |
| | 16 | 16 |

Third Year

| Fall | Credits | Spring | Credits |
|--|-----------|--------------------|-----------|
| One literature/culture course at intermediate/advanced level | 3 | AFRICAN 403 or 405 | 3 |
| Social Science Breadth | 3 | Elective | 3 |
| Elective | 3 | Elective | 3 |
| Elective | 3 | Elective | 3 |
| Elective | 3 | Elective | 3 |
| | 15 | | 15 |

Fourth Year

| Fall | Credits | Spring | Credits |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| AFRICAN elective to reach 30 credits | 3 | AFRICAN elective to reach 30 credits | 3 |
| Elective | 3 | Elective | 3 |
| Elective | 3 | Elective | 3 |
| Elective | 3 | Elective | 3 |
| Elective | 3 | Elective | 3 |
| | 15 | | 15 |

Total Credits 120

¹ Fulfills Ethnic Studies, Social Science OR Humanities requirement

² Fulfills Communication Part B, Literature OR Humanities requirement

ADVISING AND CAREERS

ADVISING

How does the major in African cultural studies fit into my educational goals?

While there are a wide variety of reasons to visit your major advisor, there seem to be two recurring questions:

1. Can I complete the major during the time I have left at UW?
2. Which classes will be offered in the future?

If you like to plan, seeing your major advisor is very important; it can make the difference between fitting in *Contemporary Arabic Literature and Culture* and *Global HipHop and Social Justice* before you graduate. Many students also try to complete more than one major or certificate, and discussing how you might be able to reach this goal is another primary role of your major advisor. Advisors can speak to you about course content, which courses fit best with your interest areas, and what kinds of courses might work best with your learning style—e.g., do you prefer multiple choice or essays? Any and all of these discussions can occur during your advising appointment.

In addition to discussing the major, advisors also know a lot about:

- General Education requirements
- Breadth requirements
- Interpreting university policies and deadlines
- Connecting majors to careers
- Getting involved with campus organizations
- Finding volunteer and/or internship opportunities
- Talking about your challenges and difficulties
- Connecting with tutors
- Picking a study abroad program
- Practicing for interviews
- Talking about graduate school
- Proofreading resumes and cover letters

Ready to meet with the ACS advisor? Make an appointment with Toni Landis using Starfish (<https://advising.wisc.edu/facstaff/starfish/starfish-student-resources/>).

CAREERS

While many students have a difficult time believing it, a humanities major such as ours enables students who complete it to consider just about any type of career or educational pursuit. Our coursework builds the critical thinking and communication skills needed to succeed in careers ranging from politics and education to business and law.

Think about what you learn in a classroom setting as well as what you do each day to be a successful student; the skills you develop are equally important in the workplace:

- critical reading, reflection, and analysis
- proper research design and methodology
- expanded world view and exposure to new ideas/ways of thinking
- effective teamwork to advance a common project/purpose
- effective time-management and self-motivation to complete projects independently
- demonstrated writing proficiency in short and long essay format
- discussion and debate strategies
- broader knowledge of career and graduate-study options

One of the more significant skills majors develop is **language acquisition**. Your study of an African language sets you apart and demonstrates your willingness to explore and expand your understanding of history and culture. In addition, the study of these less commonly taught languages shows discipline and perseverance.

Overall, you will have a wide variety of skills and talents to start you on the path to a rewarding career!

Visit our website (<https://african.wisc.edu/undergraduate-program/career-and-skill-development/>) for more information.

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). In short, SuccessWorks helps students in the College of

Letters & Science discover themselves, find opportunities, and develop the skills they need for success after graduation.

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.

Students should set up their profiles in Handshake (<https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/handshake/>) to take care of everything they need to explore career events, manage their campus interviews, and **apply to jobs and internships from 200,000+ employers around the country.**

- 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/>)
- INTER-LS 215 Communicating About Careers (3 credits, fulfills Com B General Education Requirement)
- Handshake (<https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/handshake/>)
- Learn how we're transforming career preparation: L&S Career Initiative (<http://ls.wisc.edu/lsci/>)

PEOPLE

Please visit the African Cultural Studies website (<https://african.wisc.edu/people/faculty-and-staff/>) for a complete list of faculty, instructional, and academic staff.

RESOURCES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

RESOURCES FOR LANGUAGE LEARNERS

One of the most valuable resources for students interested in language study is the Language Institute and its website, Languages at UW–Madison (<http://www.languages.wisc.edu/>).

Learn more about scholarships (<http://www.languages.wisc.edu/beyond/scholarships/>) and other opportunities for funded language study.