The African American and Africana Studies Department offers a Bachelor of Arts in African American and Africana Studies or a Bachelor of Arts in African American and Africana Studies with a concentration in Public Policy. All students will take three foundation courses, two methods courses and one of three capstone options. Students choosing the African-American and Africana Studies major take five courses in two thematic areas (or clusters): 1) Cultural and Historical Analysis and 2) Civic Engagement and Social Justice. Students choosing the major will take courses that emphasize understanding historical and cultural context, developing problem-solving and critical thinking skills and fostering the capacity to effect change locally, nationally and globally. Courses cover a wide range of topics, including history, literature, health and well-being, family, politics, criminal justice, gender and race, and incorporate both the African-American and African Diasporic experience.

Students who choose the Public Policy Concentration must take six courses in our Public Policy sequence. The Public Policy concentration offers an emphasis on problem-solving, analytical decision-making, and practical applications of policy analysis and management skills. Courses in public policy cover a range of policy areas, including health, criminal justice, reproduction and education, and also address the institutions and processes involved in policy making. Students have the opportunity to pursue a Joint BA/MPP degree.

Admission to the Major

Students wishing to major in African American and Africana Studies must make an advising appointment for an orientation to the major. Students must complete an application and attend a BSOS academic plan workshop.

Please call the AAAS office at 301-405-1158 or contact lahsram9@umd.edu to schedule an advising appointment.

Program Objectives

The African American and Africana Studies Department (AAAS) fosters an intellectual environment in which majors learn to critically examine, analyze, interpret and discuss the experiences, culture, traditions, and dynamics of people of the African Diaspora. A primary goal of the program is to develop strong critical thinking, analytical skills, research and writing skills, through our curriculum, such that AAAS majors learn the interdisciplinary methods used in examining the socio-economic, historical, and political experiences and contributions of people of African descent. Our curriculum is organized and structured to introduce AAAS historical, and political experiences and contributions of people of African descent. Our curriculum is organized and structured to introduce AAAS historical, and political experiences and contributions of people of African descent.

Description of the social and historical context of the issues in African American and African Diaspora communities. A primary goal of the African American and Africana Studies Department is to develop strong critical thinking, research and writing skills, through our curriculum, such that AAAS majors learn the interdisciplinary methods used in examining the socio-economic, historical, and political experiences and contributions of people of African descent. Students should acquire the following knowledge and skills:

1. Describe the social and historical context of the issues in African American and African Diaspora communities related to health and well-being, family functioning, economic development, political participation and contemporary culture.
2. Explain the dynamic interplay between social oppression and resistance in African-American Communities and the African Diaspora.
3. Identify critical events and historical periods and analyze their implications for politics, economics, health and psychological functioning in African American and African diaspora communities.
4. Use social science methods and data to analyze social problems and propose solutions.
5. Evaluate the validity of claims and conclusions in secular and scientific publications.
6. Identify, compute, and interpret common methods for analyzing quantitative data.
7. Write clearly and speak persuasively.

REQUIREMENTS

Students must earn a grade of "C-" or better in each course that is to be counted toward completion of degree requirements. Students must have a minimum 2.0 cumulative grade point average across all courses used to satisfy major degree requirements. All related or supporting courses in other departments must be approved by an AAAS academic advisor. Each semester there will be an approved list of courses for both those choosing the major or the concentration in Public Policy. The academic advisor will review the student’s options during their mandatory advising appointment.

African-American and Africana Studies Major: 35 Total Credits

Public Policy Concentration: 38 Total Credits

Course | Title | Credits
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| **Foundation Courses Required for All Majors** | | |
| AASP100 | Introduction to African American Studies | 3 |
| AASP200 | African Civilization | 3 |
| AASP101 | Public Policy and the Black Community | 3 |
| or AASP202 | Black Culture in the United States | |

Methods
African American and Africana Studies Major

Course | Title | Credits
AASP210 | Intro to Research Design and Analysis in African American Studies | 3
AASP399 | Research in African-American Studies (Research Practicum) | 2

Select One:
AASP395 | Fundamentals of Quantitative Research in Socio-Cultural Perspective | 3
AASP390 | (Advanced Qualitative Methods)

Capstone (Choose One)
AASP397 | Senior Thesis | 3
AASP4XX | (Study Abroad in Africa or the African Diaspora) | 2
AASP4XX | (Capstone Seminar and Community Practicum) | 2

Total Credits | 20

1 Required for Public Policy Concentration Students
2 Research Practicum is taken for 1 credit per semester.

African-American and Africana Studies Major

Course | Title | Credits
Five courses at the 300 or 400 level are required. There must be at least one course in Cluster 1 and one in Cluster 2 | 15

Cluster 1
AASP321 | (Gender, Race and Health) | 3
AASP340 | (Black Children and Youth) | 3
AASP341 | (Diversity in Black Family Life) | 3
AASP342 | (Racial Socialization of Children) | 3
AASP343 | (The Role of Place in Racial/Ethnic Health Disparities) | 3
AASP344 | (Structural Violence and Medical Apartheid in Black Communities) | 3
AASP420 | (Race, Reproduction and Population Policy: An International Perspective) | 3
AASP421 | (Race, Poverty and Transition to Adulthood) | 3
AASP445 | (Reducing Black White Achievement Gaps) | 3
AASP4XX | (Black Men, Popular Culture and Disability) | 3

Cluster 2
AASP361 | Caribbean Women (Intro to Pan-Africanism) | 3
AASP362 | (African Contributions to History) | 3
AASP370 | (Africa in World Politics) | 3
AASP371 | Black Feminist Thought (Comparative Racial Politics) | 3
AASP380 | (The Commodification and Economics of the Prison Industrial Complex) | 3
AASP460 | (Black Women’s Political and Cultural Engagements/Representations of Africa and the Global Diaspora) | 3
AASP462 | (Social Inequality and Social Policy in a Global Perspective) | 3
AASP480 | (Race, GIS and Social Inequalities) | 3
AASP481 | (Negroes with Guns) | 3
AASP492 | (African Americans and Public Policy) | 3

Total Credits | 18

Public Policy Concentration

Course | Title | Credits
Analytic Component
AASP301 | Applied Policy Analysis and the Black Community | 3
ECON200 | Principles of Microeconomics | 3
PLCY388 | Special Topics in Public Policy | 3
or PLCY401 | Contemporary Issues in Public Policy | 3
AASP Policy Electives in African American Studies | 9
AASP398 | Selected Topics in the African Diaspora | 3
AASP411 | Black Resistance Movements | 3
AASP441 | Science, Technology, and the Black Community | 3
AASP443 | Blacks and the Law | 3
AASP498 | Special Topics in Black Culture | 3
AASP499 | Advanced Topics in Public Policy and the Black Community | 3

Total Credits | 15

GRADUATION PLANS

Click [here](https://fellercenter.umd.edu/academic-advising/forms-policies/graduation-plans/) for roadmaps for graduation plans in the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences.

Additional information on developing a graduation plan can be found on the following pages:

- [http://4yearplans.umd.edu](http://4yearplans.umd.edu)
- [the Student Academic Success-Degree Completion Policy](https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/registration-academic-requirements-regulations/academic-advising/#success) section of this catalog