This major offers three curriculum tracks. Students choose one track and usually select a concentration such as public policy/development studies, literature and the arts, or a more traditional disciplinary focus. The integrated studies of African people track focuses on African peoples and cultures of Africa and the western hemisphere. The African American studies track provides a comprehensive knowledge of African American history, psycho-social issues, and culture. The African studies track focuses on the history, social sciences, and cultures of Africa. All three tracks encourage students to study a language related to Africa and to take advantage of opportunities to study and work there.

Preparatory Coursework
Depending on their chosen track, all students complete Afro 1011—Introduction to African American Studies or Afro 1021—Introduction to Africa.

Degree Requirements
Students must complete at least 120 credits to graduate, including at least 30 credits in the major.

Students must complete 30-36 3xxx, 4xxx, or 5xxx level credits, including a 3xxx, 4xxx, or 5xxx level statistics or methods course approved by the undergraduate adviser; sequences in African American history and/or African history; 12 credits in group concentration and 6 credits outside the concentration; at least 3 credits from a course that examines gender issues; one 4xxx or 5xxx level seminar or proseminar; and a senior paper. Students may receive a maximum of 2 credits toward the major for approved domestic or foreign internships. Specific requirements vary depending on selected track. Consult the student handbook of the Department of African American and African Studies for details. Students selecting this major should consult with the undergraduate adviser to establish an approved program.

Language Requirements
CLA language requirement must be met in one of the following languages: French, German, Dutch, Portuguese, Spanish, Arabic, and Swahili.

Final Project
An approved senior thesis represents the culmination of a student’s degree program and should develop from the concentration defined by earlier coursework. Students work with a selected faculty member over two semesters and must register for Afro 3991-3992—Senior Paper. An annotated bibliography and thesis statement should be completed by the end of the first semester, and a final draft completed midway through the second term. The final paper must be submitted to the director of undergraduate advising for inclusion in the department’s collection.

Minor Requirements
Students must satisfactorily complete 15 credits from 3xxx, 4xxx, or 5xxx level courses. For approved internships students may receive up to 3 credits toward the minor.
What can I do with a major in African-American & African studies?

Skills

African American and African studies majors develop skills through programs in history, literature, music, languages, religion and the geo-political study of current affairs that are applicable to a wide variety of careers. These skills include:

• An understanding of the cultural and historical experiences of African American and African peoples
• Verbal and written communication skills
• Ability to formulate clear and persuasive messages
• Listening, clarifying, questioning, and responding skills
• Ability to work well with diverse groups

Employment

Common areas of employment for this major include but are not limited to:

• Human Services—family & children, public policy
• Health and Life Sciences—public health, aging, environmental racism
• Law—criminal justice, civil rights, immigration, housing rights issues, etc.
• Foreign Service—international relations, diplomatic service
• Education—teaching, research, administration
• Media and Communications—writing, editing, management, public relations
• Business—marketing, human resources, sales, training, consulting
• Non-profit—fund raising, program management

How do I declare an African-American & African studies major?

You will be required to declare a major by the time you have completed 60 credits.

1. Talk with someone from the department: an adviser, a professor, or a teaching assistant, to learn more about the major and its requirements.

2. When you decide upon an African-American & African studies major, meet with the appropriate person from the department to complete a Major Program form and be sure to retain the student copy for your records.

3. The copy for your CLA student file will be forwarded by the department’s staff to your CLA student community.

4. If you decide to change your major, contact your CLA student community to learn about your new major’s declaration process.

For more information

About the African-American & African studies major:
Undergraduate Advising Office
872 Social Sciences Building
(612) 624-9018
http://www.afroam.umn.edu/

About CLA requirements, graduation, and other information about majors:
CLA Social Sciences Student Community
575 Heller Hall
(612) 626-7714
http://www.class.umn.edu/socsci/
socsci@class.cla.umn.edu

or
CLA Martin Luther King, Jr. Program
19 Johnston Hall
(612) 625-2300
http://www.class.umn.edu/mlk/
mlk@class.cla.umn.edu

About careers, internships, and community learning opportunities in this major and others:
Career and Community Learning Center
135 Johnston Hall
(612) 624-7577
www.cclc.umn.edu
cclc@class.cla.umn.edu

About graduation with honors:
Students interested in graduating with honors should contact:
CLA Honors Division
115 Johnston Hall
(612) 624-5522
www.cla.umn.edu/honors/
honors@class.cla.umn.edu

Remember!

You have not declared a major until you have:

• completed a Major Program Form with your major adviser
• filed a copy with the major department
• filed a copy with your CLA student community
• be sure to keep a copy for yourself