AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES, B.A.

African American studies describe the systematic investigation into the vast range of racial, ethnic, cultural, and political perspectives, experiences, and beliefs of people of African heritage around the globe, with particular focus on the African Diaspora in the United States. Students emerge from Saint Louis University’s African American Studies, B.A. program with a rigorous understanding of the histories, philosophies, culture, and literature emergent from the African Diaspora, thus enabling them to embark on careers in education, law, politics, business and the arts.

African American studies offer students the opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of the vast diversity of the society in which they live. Students will become knowledgeable about the African diaspora and be prepared to seek careers or professional programs where they can utilize knowledge in the design and implementation of programs for, and on behalf of, African Americans and other diasporic communities.

Our students, staff and faculty come from a range of backgrounds, experiences and fields of study. Collectively, our mission is to combine rigorous study, creativity and research in the production and exchange of knowledge concerning the African Diaspora.

We aim to foster a community of thinkers, scholars, activists, and artists whose work enriches understanding of how African Americans and other African Diasporic communities have mutually shaped the social worlds they inhabit.

SLU’s African American studies major is open to all students pursuing an undergraduate degree, regardless of race, ethnicity or national origin.

Leadership
Christopher Tinson, Ph.D.
Program Director

Curriculum Overview
A total of 30 credits are required to complete SLU’s major in African American studies. Students complete five core courses designed to introduce them to the goals of the African American studies program and to help them further develop an understanding of the African diaspora and its impact, interrelationships and dynamics in contemporary African American communities.

African American Studies courses at Saint Louis University intersect with a variety of academic majors. Courses that make the core of the African American studies degree are taught within our program. The program also offers cross-listed courses with other academic departments, and when taken for the African American studies, requirements may also fulfill the College of Arts and Sciences core requirements. The variety of courses across academic disciplines enables students to develop new ways of conceptualizing issues related to race, identity and culture in their scholarly pursuits.

Fieldwork and Research Opportunities
SLU’s African American studies program also offers special academic opportunities such as internships and field service projects in African American communities for students who are looking for challenges outside of the classroom. Students should consult the program director for more information on this aspect of our program.

Careers
Majoring in African American studies gives students the opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of the pluralistic society in which they live.

Career options include:
• Advertising agent
• Business manager
• City planner
• Community relations specialist
• Copy editor
• Creative writer
• Educator/professor
• Health administrator
• Journalist
• Lawyer
• Linguist
• Museum curator
• Paralegal
• Policy analyst
• Psychologist
• Sociologist
• University administrator

Admission Requirements
Freshman
Begin your application for this program at www.slu.edu/apply (http://www.slu.edu/apply.php). Saint Louis University also accepts the Common App.

All applications are thoroughly reviewed with the highest degree of individual care and consideration to all credentials that are submitted. Solid academic performance in college preparatory course work is a primary concern in reviewing a freshman applicant’s file.

To be considered for admission to any Saint Louis University undergraduate program, the applicant must be graduating from an accredited high school, have an acceptable HiSET exam score or take the General Education Development (GED) test. Beginning with the 2021-22 academic year, undergraduate applicants will not be required to submit standardized test scores (ACT or SAT) in order to be considered for admission. Applicants will be evaluated equally, with or without submitted test scores.

Begin Your Application (http://www.slu.edu/apply.php)

Transfer
Begin your application for this program at www.slu.edu/apply (http://www.slu.edu/apply.php).

Applicants must be a graduate of an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the GED. An official high school transcript and official test scores are required only of those students who have attempted fewer than 24 transferable semester credits (or 30 quarter credits) of college credit. Those having completed 24 or more of
Learning Outcomes

1. Graduates will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the rich complexities of the social, political, economic and cultural life primarily of people of African descent in the United States, but also those in the African diaspora and on the continent.

2. Graduates will be able to interweave arguments and approaches from multiple disciplines into their assignments and projects.

3. Graduates will be able to engage in activities that encourage them to interact with and serve the African American and the African Diasporic community in order to critically assess public positions regarding critical and controversial issues facing African, African American and African Diasporic people.

Scholarships and Financial Aid

There are two principal ways to help finance a Saint Louis University education:

- **Scholarships:** Awarded based on academic achievement, service, leadership and financial need.

- **Financial Aid:** Provided in the form of grants and loans, some of which require repayment.

For priority consideration for merit-based scholarships, apply for admission by Dec. 1 and complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1.

For information on other scholarships and financial aid, visit the student financial services office online at https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/.

**Requirements**

African American studies students must complete a minimum total of 30 credits for the major.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Core Requirements</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>College core requirements (p. 2)</td>
<td>57-66</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>For additional information about core courses</td>
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<td>(<a href="http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/#coretext">http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/#coretext</a>)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Required Courses</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>AAM 2000</td>
<td>Freedom Dreams: Intro to African American Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAM 2010</td>
<td>Contemporary Black America</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAM 4970</td>
<td>Research Methods in African American Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAM 4960</td>
<td>Capstone Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Choose one class at either the AAM 3xxx-level or AAM 4xxx-level</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Required Elective Courses</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The remaining 15 credits can be selected from courses</td>
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<td>with the 'African American Studies' attribute.</td>
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<td>Up to six hours of electives can be used for 'double</td>
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<td>duty' as Arts &amp; Sciences core requirements.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General Electives</td>
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<td>Total Credits</td>
<td>120</td>
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</table>

**Continuation Standards**

Students with a major in African American studies must maintain a 2.00 GPA in courses for the African American studies major.

**Bachelor of Arts Core Curriculum Requirements**

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>Core Components and Credits</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td>Foundations of Discourse (<a href="http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/ba-core/foundations-discourse/">http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/ba-core/foundations-discourse/</a>)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Diversity in the U.S. (<a href="http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/ba-core/cultural-diversity/">http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/ba-core/cultural-diversity/</a>)</td>
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<td>Global Citizenship (<a href="http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/ba-core/global-citizenship/">http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/ba-core/global-citizenship/</a>)</td>
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<td>Foreign Language (<a href="http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/ba-core/foreign-language/">http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/ba-core/foreign-language/</a>)</td>
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<td>Fine Arts (<a href="http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/ba-core/fine-arts/">http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/ba-core/fine-arts/</a>)</td>
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<td>Literature (<a href="http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/ba-core/literature/">http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/ba-core/literature/</a>)</td>
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<td>Mathematics (<a href="http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/ba-core/mathematics/">http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/ba-core/mathematics/</a>)</td>
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<td>Natural Science (<a href="http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/ba-core/natural-science/">http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/ba-core/natural-science/</a>)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Philosophy (<a href="http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/ba-core/philosophy/">http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/ba-core/philosophy/</a>)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Social Science (<a href="http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/ba-core/social-science/">http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/ba-core/social-science/</a>)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Theology (<a href="http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/ba-core/theology/">http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/ba-core/theology/</a>)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
World History ([http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/ba-core/world-history/](http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/ba-core/world-history/))

Total Credits 57-66

**Graduation Requirements**

- Complete a minimum of 120 credits (excluding pre-college level courses [numbered below 1000]).
- Complete either the College of Arts and Sciences Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science Core Curriculum Requirements.
- Complete Major Requirements: minimum 30 credits required.
- Complete remaining credits with a second major, minor, certificate, and/or elective credits to reach the minimum of 120 credits required for graduation.
- Courses listed under the intensive English program do not count toward graduation requirements. EAP 1500 College Composition for International Students (3 cr), EAP 1900 Rhetoric & Research Strategies (3 cr) and EAP 2850 Nation, Identity and Literature (3 cr) count toward graduation requirements as equivalents to Department of English courses.

In addition to those courses, six credits from EAP/MLNG courses at the 1000 level or higher may count toward graduation requirements:

- Achieve at least a 2.00 cumulative grade point average, a 2.00 grade point average in the major(s) and a 2.00 grade point average in the minor/certificate, or related elective credits.
- Complete department/program-specific academic and performance requirements.
- Complete at least 50% of the coursework for the major and 75% for the minor/certificate through Saint Louis University or an approved study abroad program.
- Complete 30 of the final 36 credits through Saint Louis University or an approved study abroad program.
- Complete an online degree application by the required University deadline.

**Roadmap**

Roadmaps are recommended semester-by-semester plans of study for programs and assume full-time enrollment unless otherwise noted.

Courses and milestones designated as critical (marked with !) must be completed in the semester listed to ensure a timely graduation. Transfer credit may change the roadmap.

This roadmap should not be used in the place of regular academic advising appointments. All students are encouraged to meet with their advisor/mentor each semester. Requirements, course availability and sequencing are subject to change.

### Year One

**Fall**

- **AAM 2000** Freedom Dreams: Intro to African American Studies 3
- **CAS core courses** 9
- **Elective** 3

**Total Credits** 15

### Spring

- **AAM 2010** Contemporary Black America 3
- **AAM 2XXX** Cross listed elective course 3

**Total Credits** 15

### Year Two

**Fall**

- **AAM 3XXX** Cross listed elective course 3
- **CAS core courses** 9
- **Elective** 3

**Total Credits** 15

**Spring**

- **AAM 3XXX** Cross listed elective course 3
- **CAS core courses** 9
- **Elective** 3

**Total Credits** 15

### Year Three

**Fall**

STUDY ABROAD OPTION

- **CAS core courses** 9
- **Electives** 6

**Total Credits** 15

**Spring**

- **AAM 3XXX/4XXX** Cross listed elective course 3
- **CAS core courses** 9
- **Elective** 3

**Total Credits** 15

### Year Four

**Fall**

- **AAM 4970** Research Methods in African American Studies 3
- **AAM 4XXX** Cross listed elective course 3
- **CAS core courses** 6
- **Elective** 3

**Total Credits** 15

**Spring**

- **AAM 4960** Capstone Course 3
- **AAM 4XXX** Cross listed elective course 3
- **CAS core courses** 6
- **Elective** 3

**Total Credits** 15

Total Credits 120