

What about a major in...?

African American and African Studies

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

CLA COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

What is African American and African Studies?

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 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. The Africa and African Diaspora Studies track focuses on the dispersal of African peoples and their descendants around the world. All three tracks encourage students to study a language related to Africa and to take advantage of opportunities to study and work there.

What are the major requirements?

Go to www.catalogs.umn.edu/programs.html and select “undergraduate majors.”

How do I declare an African American and 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 and African Studies major, meet with the undergraduate adviser to complete a Major Program form and be sure to retain the student copy for your records.
3. Submit a copy of the Major Program form 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.

What can I do with a major in African American and 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

For more information:

About the African American and African studies major:

Undergraduate Advising Office
808 Social Sciences Building
(612) 624-9847

<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://socsci.class.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:

CLA Honors Division

20 Nicholson

(612) 624-5522

www.honors.class.umn.edu/

honors@class.cla.umn.edu

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

Today's workplace requires individuals with interpersonal skills, the ability to communicate effectively, an ability to solve problems, and adaptability. CLA graduates find that they are well-prepared in all these areas and that their education—especially when combined with experience gained through internships, volunteer positions, past jobs, and other collegiate involvement—makes them competitive.

The **Career & Community Learning Center** provides students with the tools to identify and pursue potential careers. An extensive resource room, career courses and workshops, and a helpful staff are just some of the ways we can help.

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,
- and filed a copy with your CLA student community.

Don't forget: keep a copy for yourself!