

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 a particular focus on the African diaspora in the United States. Students emerge from Saint Louis University's Bachelor of Arts of African American Studies 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 SLU 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 to design and implement programs for 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 producing and exchanging 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.

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 Department of African American Studies (<https://www.slu.edu/arts-and-sciences/african-american-studies/>) 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 various academic majors. Courses that make up the core of the African American studies degree are taught within our department. The department also offers cross-listed courses with other academic departments, and when taken for African American studies, requirements may also fulfill the University Undergraduate Core (<https://www.slu.edu/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 Department of African American Studies also offers unique academic opportunities, such as internships and field service projects in African American communities, for students seeking challenges outside the classroom. Students should consult the department chair for more information on this aspect of our program.

Careers

Majoring in African American studies allows students to develop a deeper understanding of the pluralistic society they live in.

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

Begin Your Application (<https://www.slu.edu/apply.php>)

Saint Louis University also accepts the Common Application and the Coalition Application.

Freshman

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 coursework is a primary concern in reviewing a freshman applicant's file.

To be considered for admission to any Saint Louis University undergraduate program, applicants must be graduating from an accredited high school, have an acceptable HiSET exam score or take the General Education Development (GED) test.

Transfer

Applicants must be a graduate of an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the GED or HiSET.

Students who have attempted fewer than 24 semester credits (or 30 quarter credits) of college credit must follow the above freshmen admission requirements. Students who have completed 24 or more semester credits (or 30 quarter credits) of college credit must submit transcripts from all previously attended college(s).

In reviewing a transfer applicant's file, the Office of Admission holistically examines the student's academic performance in college-level coursework as an indicator of the student's ability to meet the academic rigors of Saint Louis University. Where applicable, transfer students will be evaluated on any courses outlined in the continuation standards of their preferred major.

International Applicants

All admission policies and requirements for domestic students apply to international students along with the following:

- Demonstrate English Language Proficiency (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/office-admission/undergraduate/english-language-proficiency/>)
- All academic records must include an English translation. An official course-by-course transcript evaluation may be required and accepted.

Tuition

Tuition/Fee	Cost Per Year
Undergraduate Tuition	\$58,960
University Fees	\$1,000

Additional charges may apply. Other resources are listed below:

Net Price Calculator (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/tuition-and-costs/calculator.php>)

Cost of Attendance (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/tuition-and-costs/cost-of-attendance.php>)

Information on Tuition and Fees (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/tuition/>)

Miscellaneous Fees (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/fees/>)

Information on Summer Tuition (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/tuition-summer-current/tuition-summer-current.pdf>)

Scholarships and Financial Aid

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

- **Scholarships:** Scholarships are awarded based on academic achievement, service, leadership and financial need.
- **Financial Aid:** Financial aid is provided through grants and loans, some of which require repayment.

Saint Louis University makes every effort to keep our education affordable. In fiscal year 2025, 99.6% of first-time freshmen and 92% of all students received financial aid (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/>) and students received more than \$517 million in aid University-wide.

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

For more information on scholarships and financial aid, visit the Office of Student Financial Services (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/>).

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.

Requirements

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

Code	Title	Credits
University Undergraduate Core (https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/academic-policies-procedures/university-core/)		32-35
Major Requirements		30
AAM 2000	Freedom Dreams: Intro to African American Studies	3
AAM 2010	Contemporary Black America	3
AAM 4970	Research Methods in African American Studies	3
AAM 4960	Capstone Course	3
Choose one class at either the AAM 3xxx-level or AAM 4xxx-level		3
Major Elective Courses		15
The remaining 15 credits can be selected from courses with the African American Studies attribute. Up to six hours of electives can be used for double duty as Arts & Sciences core requirements.		
University Electives		55-58
Total Credits		120

Continuation Standards

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

Roadmap

This roadmap is just one example of a semester-by-semester plan of study for this program. There are other plans students can and do take. The plan of study for each particular student is established in consultation with each student's academic advisor; *this roadmap does not replace academic advising appointments.*

Roadmap notes:

- This Roadmap assumes full-time enrollment unless otherwise noted.
- Courses/Milestones marked with an "!" are critical and must be completed in the semester listed in the Roadmap to ensure a timely graduation.
- Course availability and sequencing are subject to change.

Course	Title	Credits
Year One		
Fall		
AAM 2000	Freedom Dreams: Intro to African American Studies (satisfies Equity and Global Identities: Identities in Context)	3
CORE 1000	Ignite First Year Seminar (Must be taken in first 36 credit hours at SLU / Cannot carry attributes)	2

CORE 1500	Cura Personalis 1: Self in Community (Must be taken in first 36 credit hours at SLU / Cannot carry attributes)	1
CORE 1900	Eloquentia Perfecta 1: Written and Visual Communication (Should be taken in first 36 credit hours at SLU / Cannot carry attributes)	3
University Electives		6
Credits		15
Spring		
CORE 3200	Ways of Thinking: Quantitative Reasoning (Should be taken in first 45 credit hours at SLU)	3
CORE 1600	Ultimate Questions: Theology	3
AAM 2010	Contemporary Black America (satisfies CORE 3400)	3
AAM 2XXX OR 3XXX	Cross listed elected course/African American Studies attribute	3
University Electives		3
Credits		15
Year Two		
Fall		
CORE 1200	Eloquentia Perfecta 2: Oral and Visual Communication (Should be taken in first 60 credit hours at SLU / Cannot carry attributes)	3
CORE 1700	Ultimate Questions: Philosophy	3
AAM 2XXX OR 3XXX	Cross listed elected course /African American Studies attribute	3
University Electives		6
Credits		15
Spring		
CORE 3800	Ways of Thinking: Natural and Applied Sciences (taken any time)	3
CORE 2500	Cura Personalis 2: Self in Contemplation	0
AAM 2XXX OR 3XXX	Cross listed elective course /African American Studies attribute	6
University Electives		6
Credits		15
Year Three		
Fall		
CORE 2800	Eloquentia Perfecta 3: Creative Expression (taken any time)	2
CORE 3400	Ways of Thinking: Aesthetics, History, and Culture (taken any time)	3
AAM 2XXX OR 3XXX	Cross listed elected course/African American Studies attribute	3
University Electives		7
Credits		15
Spring		
CORE 3600	Ways of Thinking: Social and Behavioral Sciences (taken any time)	3
CORE 4000	Collaborative Inquiry	2
AAM 3XXX or 4XXX	Cross listed elected course/African American Studies attribute	3

University Electives		7
Credits		15
Year Four		
Fall		
CORE 3500	Cura Personalis 3: Self in the World	1
AAM 4970	Research Methods in African American Studies	3
University Electives		11
Credits		15
Spring		
AAM 4960	Capstone Course	3
University Electives		12
Credits		15
Total Credits		120

2+SLU

2+SLU programs provide a guided pathway for students transferring from a partner institution.

- African American Studies, B.A. (STLCC 2+SLU) (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/office-admission/undergraduate/2pluslu/stlcc/african-american-studies/>)

Contact Us

For additional information about this program, please contact AFAMStudies@SLU.edu or call 314-977-2242.