

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

AFRICAN & AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

The **African and African American Studies** major offers a **nuanced understanding of the experiences of African and African-descended people** through exploration of the cultures, histories, politics, arts and intellectual contributions of Africans throughout the diaspora.

DEPARTMENT STRENGTHS

- **Multidisciplinary Curriculum.** The program features a well-rounded curriculum that draws from history, anthropology, sociology, political science, gender studies and art, among others.
- **Career Opportunities.** Students gain skills that support a variety of careers, with graduates going on to competitive careers in numerous fields, including law, public policy, media, nonprofits and more.
- **Flexible Degree.** Because of its interdisciplinary nature, AAAS is ideal as a second major.

SAMPLE CURRICULUM

Core Courses

- AAAS 2100 Intro to African and African American Study
- AAAS 3100 Research Methods in AAAS
- AAAS 4100 Seminar in AAAS

Electives*

- AAAS 3805 Race and Religion in the US
- ARTH 4183 Visual Arts of Africa
- COMM 3361 African American Rhetoric
- HIST 4287 Africa and the African Diaspora
- PHIL 3452 African American Philosophy
- SOCI 4460 Black and White Women in the South

DEGREE OPTIONS

- BA in African & African American Studies**
- Minor in African & African American Studies**

FOCUS AREAS

- African American Political Thought and Philosophy
- Arts, Literature and Cultural Expression
- Histories, Cultures and Institutions
- Inequalities and Disparities
- Race, Class, Gender and Sexuality
- Religion in Africa and the Diaspora
- Social Movements

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Annual Lecture Series
- Community Outreach Projects
- Directed Readings and Research
- Honors Program
- Independent Study
- Internships
- Student Organizations
- Study Abroad

THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS
College of Arts and Sciences

AFRICAN & AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES
MAJOR FACT SHEET

BY THE NUMBERS (Spring 2026)

Student Enrollment

6	6	0
Total	Undergraduate	Graduate

Number of Minors

14
Total

Student Demographics

- 83% Female
- 17% Under 25
- 50% Pell Grant
- 100% First Gen

Faculty Employed

6:1
Student-Faculty Ratio†

1	1	0	2
Full-Time	Part-Time	Grad Asst	Total

Degrees Awarded

3
Total

7.3
Avg Years to Degree

134
Avg Hours Earned

Career Outcomes‡

N/A	$55K
Avg Expected Salary First Destination	Avg Annual Salary 1-3 Years Post-Grad
76%	**59%**
Employed in TN	Employed in Memphis

TN Employment Outlook

N/A	N/A
10-Year Job Growth	Avg Annual Job Openings

CAREER OPTIONS

Job Titles

- Activist
- Anthropologist
- Community Organizer
- Copywriter
- Historian
- Labor Relations Advisor
- Museum Curator
- PR Specialist
- Social Psychologist
- Sociologist

Industries

- Arts & Media
- Education
- Government
- Nonprofit
- Social Services

WHO YOU ARE

Personality

- Conscientious
- Creative
- Independent
- Passionate
- Perceptive
- Thoughtful

Interests & Hobbies

- Culture
- History
- Human Rights
- Literature and Media
- Popular Culture
- Social Issues

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

Core Skills

- Advocacy and Activism
- Black Diasporic Theory
- Cultural Competence
- Data Collection and Analysis
- Political Theory
- Research Methods and Design

Transferable Skills

- Critical Thinking
- Cross-Cultural Communication
- Digital and Media Literacy
- Persuasion
- Problem Solving
- Written and Oral Communication

* *The specified courses are for example purposes only. It is not a complete list of concentration courses.*
** *Online degree options are available for the specified programs through UofM Global.*

† *Calculated based on the number of student majors and the number of full-time faculty.*
‡ *Based on self-reported post-graduation outcomes of UofM students who have earned a Bachelor's degree in the last ten years.*