



African American & African Diaspora Studies

Bachelor of Arts

The Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies (AAADS) introduces students to a wide range of current research and scholarly opinion on the history, culture, and social status of black Americans and their African heritage. As an intellectual enterprise, the department provides an eclectic analysis of the African American and African diasporic experience. As a humanistic discipline in the democratic tradition, African American and African diaspora studies seeks to dispel the myths and expose those attitudes that perpetuate racism in American life.

Students enrolled in any department or school may elect any course or sequence of courses in African American and African diaspora studies for which they are eligible. Many of the courses in the department may be used to satisfy

distribution or culture studies requirements. A few courses may be used to fulfill intensive writing requirements.

AAADS also offers a master of arts degree and a doctoral minor, and a PhD program. Students with the BA in African American and African diaspora studies will be well prepared to pursue the higher degrees.

Undergraduate students find the AAADS Undergraduate Club to be a shelter in the whirlwind of college pressures. While active socially, it is also a place where academic interests may be sharpened and brought into focus through interaction with other students of similar interests. Through the club, undergraduates often connect with graduate students for advice and mentoring. For more information, contact the chair or director of undergraduate studies.

Programs, Requirements, and Sample Courses

Major in AAADS

At the time of admission to the department, each student and the undergraduate advisor together plan an individualized program of study, including the selection of a major concentration area.

Requirements: Minimum of 30 credit hours of undergraduate course work selected from the department's three concentration areas: arts, literature, and history, culture, and social issues. (Not more than 6 credit hours at the 100 level and not more than 9 credit hours at the 200 level can be counted toward the major.)

Majors must complete A150; A355 or A356 in history; and A379 or A380 in literature; 12 credit hours in one AAADS concentration area (A355 or A356 and A379 or A380 may be included in the 12 hours); 6 credit hours in each of the other two concentration areas (A355 or A356 and A379 or A380 may be included); and A493 Senior Seminar in Afro-American Studies.

In addition, students must also complete the degree requirements of the College of Arts and Sciences (www.indiana.edu/~bulletin/iub/coas).

Interdepartmental Joint Majors

AAADS/English

Students take a minimum total of 40 credit hours. In African American and African diaspora studies, students take at least 18 credit hours, of which at least 12 must be at the 300 level or above. In English, at least 18 credit hours are taken at the 200 level or above, of which at least 12 must be at the 300 level or above.

Sample courses include

- A150 Introduction to Afro-American Culture;
- L202 Literary Interpretation;
- A249 Afro-American Autobiography;
- L371 Critical Practices;
- A384 Blacks in American Drama and Theater 1945-Present; and
- A480 The Black Novel.

AAADS/History

Students take a minimum total of 40 hours, with no upper-level courses in either discipline counting toward the requirements of the other. In AAADS, students take at least 18 credit hours at the 200 level or above, of which at least 12 must be at the 300 level or above. In history, students take at least 18 credit hours, including at least 15 hours of 300- and 400-level courses.

Sample courses include

- A150 Survey of the Culture of Black Americans;
- A355/356 Afro-American History I or II; and
- Any two courses in non-U.S. history (e.g., Western European, Russia and East European, Middle Eastern, African, Latin American, or East Asian).

AAADS/Religious Studies

Students take a minimum total of 42 credit hours. In AAADS, at least 21 credit hours are taken, of which at least 12 must be at the 300 level or above. In religious studies, at least 21 credit hours are taken, with no more than one 100-level course counting toward the minimum and with at least 12 credit hours in courses at the 300 level or above. The Senior Honors Thesis may be taken (with approval).

Sample courses include

- A355/356 Afro-American History I or II; and
- One course from each of these areas: Western Religious Traditions, Eastern Religious Traditions, and Critical Issues in Religious Studies.

AAADS/Sociology

Students take a minimum total of 40 credit hours. In AAADS, at least 18 credit hours are taken, of which at least 12 must be at the 300 level or above. In sociology, at least 21 credit hours are taken, of which at least 12 must be at the 300 level or above.

Sample courses include

- A150 Survey Culture of Black Americans;
- S210 The Economy, Organizations, and Work;
- A379 Early Black American Writing or A380 Contemporary Black American Writing;
- S335 Race and Ethnic Relations; and
- A363 Research on Contemporary Afro-American Problems I.

Minor in AAADS

Students majoring in another discipline may minor in AAADS. Requirements: 15 College of Arts and Sciences credit hours in African American and African diaspora studies, including A355 or A356 in history and A379 or A380 in literature, plus at least one other course at the 300-400 level. At least 9 of the 15 credit hours must be in a single concentration area: literature, arts, or history, culture, and social issues. Courses are selected in consultation with the undergraduate academic advisor. At least 9 credit hours must be taken in residence at IU Bloomington.

AAADS Honors Program

AAADS majors with a minimum 3.3 cumulative GPA and a 3.3 GPA within the Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies are eligible for the departmental honors program. Requirements: 9 credit hours of honors work (3 credit hours of supervised readings and 6 credit hours of supervised independent research). Independent research may take the form of research projects, field research, internships, or creative activities. Students apply in the fall semester of their junior year, providing a transcript and a short letter of application describing the proposed honors project in general terms.

Study Abroad Program

The AAADS Study Abroad Program gives students the opportunity to experience the diaspora firsthand, visiting another country where people of African descent have made lives for themselves. Students explore diverse cultural traditions and, by comparing and contrasting elements of the diaspora, come to better understand the commonalities and differences among black people globally.

Each summer, a four-week course in either Afro-Guyana, Dominican Republic, or Black Paris is offered and open to both undergraduate and graduate students.

Internship Program

Students may obtain an internship by application through the department. The details and other requirements of the internship are arranged by the instructor and the liaison where the internship is offered, in consultation with the AAADS chair and the director of undergraduate studies. Internships earn 3 credit hours.