

College of Humanities and Sciences

African American Studies

The Bachelor of Arts in African American Studies offers a wide range of courses to enhance students' outlooks and goals. Students enrolled in this program can expect a generous offering of classes in the humanities and sciences. This program is an excellent preparation for graduate studies in African American studies as well as other fields.

General skills

Through the general curriculum requirements, taken in the freshman and sophomore years, students typically develop the following skills and knowledge in these areas:

- Ability to think critically and ask thought-provoking questions.
- Interpersonal skills that enable them to understand, work with and influence others.
- Ability to write and speak effectively, and to analyze and synthesize information.
- A breadth of background from sciences, mathematics, social sciences and humanities.
- A sense of ethics and an appreciation of diversity.

Specific skills

Students in this major typically develop the following skills and areas of knowledge:

- Ability to apply critical-thinking and problem-solving skills to events and situations in personal life and in society.
- Appreciation of cultural diversity.
- Understanding of the link between the liberal arts and sciences.

Academic course work

Some representative courses students in the African American studies major take are:

- Survey of African History.
- Introduction to African Societies
- Africa in Transition.
- Introduction to African American Music.
- African American Social Thought.
- Politics of the Civil Rights Movement.
- Black Theatre.
- Black Religion.

Additional experience

To make yourself more marketable:

- Take electives related to your career goals or minor in a supporting area.
- Enroll in the Cooperative Education Program to gain valuable work experience.
- Arrange for a related internship or part-time job.
- Participate in and take on leadership roles in extracurricular activities.

Career opportunities

Students who receive the bachelor's degree in African American studies may find employment in the following areas:

- Administrative assistant.
- FBI/CIA agent.
- Paralegal.
- Peace Corps volunteer.
- Sales representative.
- School teacher.

Related fields/graduate study

The Bachelor of Arts in African American Studies prepares students for graduate work in African American studies as well as other fields, such as humanities or social sciences.

The logo for Virginia Commonwealth University, consisting of the letters 'VCU' in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font.

Contact VCU for more information

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