African American studies is a study of the racial, cultural and ethnic perspectives and experiences of people of African heritage. The program of study enables students to understand national and world views of African American and African world people in order to determine how such views have affected perceptions of self, family and community.

Students enrolled in African American studies courses gain insight and knowledge about the cultures and histories of people of African heritage in the U.S. and throughout the African diaspora. African American studies courses complement information attained in a variety of academic majors. Our recent graduates include students who have also majored in communication, marketing, political science, psychology and social work.

Both the major and the minor give students the opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of the pluralistic 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 in the design and implementation of programs for, and on behalf of, African Americans.

The African American studies major and minor are both interdisciplinary. Many of the courses offered are cross-listed with other academic departments, and when taken for the African American studies requirements may also fulfill the College of Arts and Sciences core requirements. The variety of courses across academic disciplines enables students to develop new ways of conceptualizing issues related to race and culture.

A total of 30 credit hours are required to complete the major in African American studies. Students complete five core courses designed to introduce them to the goals of the African American studies program and to help them further develop an understanding of the African diaspora and its impact, interrelationships and dynamics in contemporary African American communities.

These 15 credit hours consist of:
+ AAM 2000: Introduction to African American Studies
+ AAM 2010: Contemporary Black America
+ AAM 3000 or a 4000-level elective
+ AAM 4970: Research Methods in African American Studies
+ AAM 4960: Capstone

The remaining 15 elective credit hours can be selected from either African American studies courses or courses offered by other academic departments and cross-listed with African American studies.

African American studies also offers a minor, requiring 21 credit hours and seven courses:
+ AAM 2000: Introduction to African American Studies
+ AAM 2010: Contemporary Black America
+ AAM 3000 or a 4000-level elective
+ Three courses from African American studies or cross-listed courses
+ AAM 4960: Capstone
Admission Requirements

Freshman: All applications are thoroughly and carefully reviewed. Solid academic performance in college preparatory course work is a primary criterion in reviewing a freshman applicant’s file. College admission test scores (ACT or SAT) are used as an additional indicator of the student’s ability to meet the University’s academic requirements and to qualify the student for certain University scholarship programs. To be considered for admission to any Saint Louis University undergraduate program, the applicant must be approaching graduation from an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on 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. An official high school transcript and official test scores are required only of those students who have attempted fewer than 24 transferable semester hours (or 30 quarter hours) of college credit. Those having completed 24 hours or more of college credit need only submit a transcript from 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.

Internships and Careers

The African American studies program also offers special academic opportunities such as internships and field service projects in African American communities for students who are looking for challenges outside of the classroom.

Both the major and the minor give students the opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of the pluralistic society in which they live. Students will be prepared to work in careers that design and implement programs and policy for, and on behalf of, African Americans.

Career options include:
+ Advertising agent
+ Business manager
+ Community planner
+ Community relations
+ Copy editor
+ Creative writer
+ Educator/professor
+ Health administrator
+ Journalist
+ Lawyer
+ Linguist
+ Psychologist
+ Sociologist
+ Policy analyst
+ Museum curator

Scholarships and Financial Aid

There are two principal ways to help finance a Saint Louis University education:
+ Scholarships: awarded based on academic achievement, service, leadership and financial need.
+ Financial Aid: provided in the form of grants and loans, some of which require repayment.

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

For information on other scholarships and financial aid, visit the student financial services office online at finaid.slu.edu.

Contact
Dana Guyton  
314-977-2242  
guytondf@slu.edu

Graduate Programs
For a full listing of graduate programs, visit graduate.slu.edu.

Learn More For course listings and more information about our faculty, visit slu.edu/x16271.xml.

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