Bachelor of Art in African Studies

Howard University

College of Arts & Sciences

Catalog: Fall 2023 – Present

Quick Summary - What You Need to Graduate

Total Credits	Minimum GPA	African Studies Credits	Last 30 Credits
120	2.0	30+	At Howard

Your Degree Breakdown:

- Major Requirements: 42 Afro-American Studies credits (14 courses)
- General Education: 60+ credits (approximately 24 courses)
- Intro to Statistics is Required
- Free Electives: 30 credits to reach 120 (General Electives)
- Complete all 7 ELOs (can overlap with courses)
- Undergraduate Comprehensive Exam

Important: Double-Dipping Made Simple!

One course can fulfill BOTH a General Education requirement AND an Essential Learning Outcome (ELO) at the same time. You don't need separate courses for each! This helps you graduate efficiently without taking extra classes.

Major credits **cannot** be double dipped with minor credits. Minors require **15-18 credits that are not applied to their major requirements**. Minor coursework must remain distinct and separate from major coursework.

University-Wide Requirements

- **Minimum GPA:** 2.0 for all undergraduate coursework
- **Residency:** Complete last 30 credits at Howard University
- **Exit Requirement:** Undergraduate Comprehensive Exam
- **Total Credits:** 120 credits required

General Education Requirements (30 Credits / ~15 Courses)

Essential Learning Outcomes (ELOs)

Students must complete courses covering all seven outcome areas. Remember, these can overlap with other requirements!

- **ELO 1:** U.S. and Global African Diasporic Developments
- **ELO 2:** Human Cultures and Creative Expression
- **ELO 3:** The Physical and Natural World
- **ELO 4:** Intellectual and Practical Skills
- **ELO 5:** Social Responsibility and Political Institutions
- **ELO 6:** Leadership and Applied Learning
- **ELO 7:** Comprehensive Wellness Practices
- **Note:** ELO courses are tagged in Bison Hub under the course description

Freshman Experience (1 Credit / 1 Course)

- **FRSM 001 -** Freshman Seminar (1 credit)

Core Writing & Communication (9 Credits / 3 Courses)

- **ENGW 101, 102, or 104 -** First-Year English Writing I (3 credits)
- **ENGW 103 or 105 -** First-Year English Writing II (3 credits)
- **Principles of Speech (AS) -** (3 credits)

Health & Wellness (2 Credits / 1 Course)

- HHPL Activity/Health course(s)

Mathematics Requirements (4 credits/ 1 Course)

- **MATH 009** - Introduction to Statistics (3 credits)

Cultural and Global Awareness (12 Credits / 4 Courses)

- **African American Cluster Course -** 1 course (3 credits)
- **Foreign Language -** 3 courses (9 credits total, same language)
  (3 credits can be an intercultural knowledge)

Humanities & Social Sciences (12 Credits / 4 Courses)

- **Two Humanities Courses -** 2 courses (3 credits each)
- **Two Social Science Courses -** 2 courses (3 credits each)

Natural Sciences (6-8 Credits / 2 Courses)

- **Two Natural Science Courses-** 2 courses (3-4 credits each)

COAS Special Requirements

Experiential Learning (1 course required)

Examples of COAS Experiential Learning Course but are not limited to:

- ☐ AFRO 390
- ☐ Any 890 course
- ☐ Study abroad

Innovative Learning Requirement (1 course required)

- ☐ Complete at least one course marked as 'innovative'

Note: COAS Special Requirements courses are tagged in Bison Hub under the course description

Free Electives (30 credits / 10 Courses)

African Studies Major Requirements (42 Credits / 14 Courses)

Foundation Courses (9 credits / 3 Courses)

Required for all African Studies students

- **AFST 101** - Introduction to Contemporary Africa (3 credits)
- **AFST 105** – African Languages and Cultures (3 credits)
- **AFST 102** - Science, Technology and Development (3 credits)

African Studies Major Credits (12 Credits / 4 Courses)

Choose courses from approved African Studies electives

- **AFST Major Elective** - (3 credits)
- **AFST Major Elective** - (3 credits)
- **AFST Major Elective** - (3 credits)
- **AFST Major Elective** - (3 credits)

Capstone & Experiential Requirements (9 credits / 3 courses)

- **AFST 182** - Seminar in Regional Studies (3 credits)
- **AFST 183** - Internship in African Studies (3 credits)

- **AFST 184** - Directed Research (3 credits)

Sample Degree Progress Checklist

Always consult with your academic advisor for personalized guidance

First Year: Fall Semester (15 credits)

- ☐ FRSM 001 - Freshman Seminar (1 credit)
- ☐ ENGW 101/102/104 - First Year Writing I (3 credits)
- ☐ AFST 101 - Introduction to Contemporary Africa (3 credits)
- ☐ Humanities Course (3 credits)
- ☐ Social Science Course (3 credits)
- ☐ HHPL Health/Activity Course (2 credits)

First Year: Spring Semester (15 credits)

- ☐ ENGW 103/105 - First Year Writing II (3 credits)
- ☐ AFST 105 – African Languages and Cultures (3 credits)
- ☐ African American Cluster Course (3 credits)
- ☐ Foreign Language I (3 credits)
- ☐ Social Science Course (3 credits)

Second Year: Fall Semester (15-16 credits)

- ☐ **AFST 102** - Science, Technology and Development (3 credits)
- ☐ MATH 009 - Introduction to Statistics (3 credits)
- ☐ Foreign Language II (3 credits)
- ☐ Humanities Course (3 credits)
- ☐ Natural Science Course (3-4 credits)

Second Year: Spring Semester (14 credits)

- ☐ AFST Major Elective (3 credits)
- ☐ Foreign Language III (3 credits)
- ☐ Natural Science Course (3-4 credits)
- ☐ Free Elective Course (3 credits)

Third Year: Fall Semester (15 credits)

- ☐ AFST Major Elective (3 credits)
- ☐ Communication - Principles of Speech (3 credits)
- ☐ Free Elective Course (3 credits)
- ☐ General Elective (3 credits)
- ☐ Global Experience/Diversity Learning Course (3 credits)

Third Year: Spring Semester (15 credits)

- ☐ AFST Major Elective (3 credits)
- ☐ AFST 182 - Seminar in Regional Studies (3 credits)
- ☐ Free Elective Course (3 credits)
- ☐ Quantitative Reasoning Course (3 credits)
- ☐ General Elective (3 credits)

Fourth Year: Fall Semester (15 credits)

- ☐ AFST Major Elective (3 credits)
- ☐ AFST 183 - Internship in African Studies (3 credits)
- ☐ Free Elective Course (3 credits)
- ☐ Free Elective Course (3 credits)
- ☐ General Elective (3 credits)

Fourth Year: Spring Semester (15 credits)

- ☐ AFST 184 - Directed Research (3 credits)
- ☐ General Elective (3 credits)
- ☐ General Elective (3 credits)
- ☐ General Elective (3 credits)
- ☐ General Elective (3 credits)
- ☐ Complete Undergraduate Comprehensive Exam
- ☐ Apply for graduation

Key Requirements

- **Minimum Major GPA:** 2.0
- **Credits in African Studies:** 30+ minimum
- **Foreign Language:** 9 credits in the same language required (3 credits can be intercultural)
- **Statistics:** MATH 009 required
- **Residency:** Last 30 credits at Howard University
- **General Education:** Must span at least 4 different disciplines

Important Notes

- **Introduction Course:** AFST 101 is required and should be taken in the first semester.
- **Internship:** AFST 183 provides hands-on experience. Plan early with your advisor.
- **Directed Research:** AFST 184 allows original research under faculty supervision.
- **Global Experience:** Can be satisfied through study abroad or diversity learning courses.
- Consult with your academic advisor each semester for course planning.
- **Minimum Minor GPA:** 2.0 if declared (15 credits minimum)

Resources

- **Academic Advisor:** Contact Office of Undergraduate Studies for assignment

- **Department Office:** African Studies Department, College of Arts & Sciences
- **Research Opportunities:** Speak with faculty about research positions and independent study
- **Experiential Learning:** Connect with the Career Center and department for internship opportunities
- **Graduate School Advising:** Meet with faculty advisors if considering graduate programs