

AFRICANA STUDIES - B.A.

College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Africana Studies
<https://www.kent.edu/afs>

Contact Information

- Program Coordinator: **Mwatabu S. Okantah** | mokantah@kent.edu | 330-672-2300 or 330-672-0142
- Speak with an Advisor
- Chat with an Admissions Counselor

Fully Offered

- Kent Campus

Description

The Bachelor of Arts degree in Africana Studies covers a broad spectrum of the global African experience, which allows students to investigate African connections and influences among and with other ethnic groups in the United States and other parts of the Americas and the world.

The Africana Studies major comprises the following concentrations:

- The **Community Activism, Strategy and Development** concentration focuses on both historical and contemporary efforts to effect change in communities of color. It examines ways in which diasporic communities and individuals have coordinated political and social strategies for survival and development in spite of racism and socio-economic challenges. The concentration prepares students to work in areas such as education, law, public service, social work, research, business, grant-writing and community organizing and development. It also provides a good foundation for those interested in graduate studies.
- The **Global and Government Systems** concentration focuses on historical and contemporary culture and politics of people of African descent in Africa and throughout the world. Using an interdisciplinary and comparative approach, this concentration prepares students to function in a diverse, global and multicultural environment, working in areas such as education, law, research, public health, international studies, political science, justice studies, foreign service and business.
- The **Race, Gender and Sexuality** concentration focuses on the intersection of race, sex and/or gender primarily, though not exclusively, from the perspective of people of color. It examines issues of identity for both the individual and community. This concentration prepares students to work in areas such as education, advocacy, social work, counseling, multicultural programming and student support services; it is also a good foundation for graduate study.
- The **Arts in Culture and Society** concentration focuses on the study of people of African descent in Africa, the Americas, the Caribbean, Europe, Asia and the Middle East through the study of literature, arts and culture, with some emphasis on popular as well as non-literary cultural expressions. This concentration provides insights into the challenges black communities face as well as their creativity. Career opportunities include such areas as the arts, museums, writing, multicultural programming and administration and theatre work. This concentration also provides a good foundation for those interested

in continuing to graduate school in ethnic studies, art, education, comparative literature and global and world studies.

Study abroad opportunities exist at the University of Ghana, University of Cape Coast, and the West African Research Center in Senegal.

Admission Requirements

The university affirmatively strives to provide educational opportunities and access to students with varied backgrounds, those with special talents and adult students who graduated from high school three or more years ago.

Freshman Students on the Kent Campus: The freshman admission policy on the Kent Campus is selective. Admission decisions are based upon the following: cumulative grade point average, ACT and/or SAT scores, strength of high school college preparatory curriculum and grade trends. The Admissions Office at the Kent Campus may defer the admission of students who do not meet admissions criteria but who demonstrate areas of promise for successful college study. Deferred applicants may begin their college coursework at one of seven regional campuses of Kent State University. For more information on admissions, including additional requirements for some academic programs, visit the admissions website for first-year students.

Freshman Students on the Regional Campuses: Kent State campuses at Ashtabula, East Liverpool, Geauga, Salem, Stark, Trumbull and Tuscarawas, as well as the Twinsburg Academic Center, have open enrollment admission for students who hold a high school diploma, GED or equivalent.

English Language Proficiency Requirements for International Students: All international students must provide proof of English language proficiency (unless they meet specific exceptions) by earning a minimum 525 TOEFL score (71 on the Internet-based version), minimum 75 MELAB score, minimum 6.0 IELTS score, minimum 48 PTE score or minimum 100 DET score; or by completing the ESL level 112 Intensive Program. For more information on international admission, visit the Office of Global Education's admission website.

Transfer, Transitioning and Former Students: For more information about admission criteria for transfer, transitioning and former students, please visit the admissions website.

Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of this program will be able to

1. Understand at the advanced level of the core, the historical experiences of people of African descent.
2. Interact with diverse communities and be informed and engaged global citizens.
3. Relate current political and social issues facing the Africana world to global historical events.
4. Read, analyze and critically articulate the contemporary socio-economic, political and cultural issues facing people of African descent.

University Requirements

All students in a bachelor's degree program at Kent State University must complete the following university requirements for graduation.

NOTE: University requirements may be fulfilled in this program by specific course requirements. Please see Program Requirements for details.

Destination Kent State: First Year Experience	1
Course is not required for students with 25 transfer credits, excluding College Credit Plus, or age 21+ at time of admission.	
Diversity Domestic/Global (DIVD/DIVG)	2 courses
Students must successfully complete one domestic and one global course, of which one must be from the Kent Core.	
Experiential Learning Requirement (ELR)	varies
Students must successfully complete one course or approved experience.	
Kent Core (see table below)	36-37
Writing-Intensive Course (WIC)	1 course
Students must earn a minimum C grade in the course.	
Upper-Division Requirement	39 (or 42)
Students must successfully complete 39 upper-division (numbered 30000 to 49999) credit hours to graduate. Students in a B.A. and/or B.S. degree in the College of Arts and Sciences must complete 42 upper-division credit hours.	
Total Credit Hour Requirement	120
Some bachelor's degrees require students to complete more than 120 credit hours.	

Kent Core Requirements

Kent Core Composition (KCOMP)	6
Kent Core Mathematics and Critical Reasoning (KMCR)	3
Kent Core Humanities and Fine Arts (KHUM/KFA) (min one course each)	9
Kent Core Social Sciences (KSS) (must be from two disciplines)	6
Kent Core Basic Sciences (KBS/KLAB) (must include one laboratory)	6-7
Kent Core Additional (KADL)	6
Total Credit Hours:	36-37

Program Requirements

Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Major Requirements (courses count in major GPA)		
AFS 20001	INTRODUCTION TO AFRICANA STUDIES	3
AFS 23001	BLACK EXPERIENCE I: BEGINNINGS TO 1865 (DIVG) (KHUM)	3
AFS 23002	BLACK EXPERIENCE II: 1865 TO PRESENT (DIVD) (KHUM)	3
AFS 37000	ORAL AND WRITTEN DISCOURSES IN AFRICANA STUDIES (WIC)	3
AFS 37001	THEORETICAL APPROACHES TO AFRICANA STUDIES	3
AFS 37010	RESEARCH METHODS IN AFRICANA STUDIES (ELR)	3
AFS 47099	SENIOR SEMINAR IN AFRICANA STUDIES (ELR) (WIC)	3
Additional Requirements (courses do not count in major GPA)		
UC 10097	DESTINATION KENT STATE: FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE	1
Foreign Language ²		14-16
Kent Core Composition		6
Kent Core Mathematics and Critical Reasoning		3

Kent Core Humanities and Fine Arts (must be from fine arts category)	3
Kent Core Social Sciences (must be from two disciplines)	6
Kent Core Basic Sciences (must include one laboratory)	6-7
Kent Core Additional	6
College General Requirements (must be from Kent Core Basic Sciences) ³	3
College General Requirements (must be from Kent Core Social Sciences) ⁴	3
General Electives (total credit hours depends on earning 120 credit hours, including 42 upper-division credit hours)	36
Concentrations	
Choose from the following:	12
Community Activism, Strategy and Development	
Global and Government Systems	
Race, Gender and Sexuality	
The Arts in Culture and Society	
Minimum Total Credit Hours:	120

- A minimum C grade must be earned to fulfill the writing-intensive requirement.
- Students are recommended to satisfy their college language requirement with the study of an African language, such as Kiswahili. These courses fulfill the General College Requirement.
- One additional course taken from the Kent Core Basic Sciences courses in the following College of Arts and Sciences disciplines: Anthropology (ANTH), Biological Sciences (BSCI), Chemistry (CHEM), Geography (GEOG), Geology (GEOL) or Physics (PHY). The course may not be from the student's major.
- One additional course taken from the Kent Core Social Sciences courses in the following Arts and Sciences disciplines: Anthropology (ANTH), Geography (GEOG), Criminology and Justice Studies (CRIM), Peace and Conflict Studies (PACS), Political Science (POL), Psychology (PSYC) or Sociology (SOC). The course may not be from the student's major.

Community Activism, Strategy and Development Concentration Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Concentration Requirements (courses count in major GPA)		
Concentration Electives, choose from the following:		12
AFS 20200	RECOVERING THE PAST: KENT TO MEMPHIS (ELR)	
or AFS 26000	LEGACIES OF SLAVERY	
AFS 20300	BLACK IMAGES	
AFS 23310	NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES	
or AFS 33310	AFRO-LATINX COMMUNITIES IN THE U.S. (DIVD)	
AFS 26010	BLACK LIVES MATTER: THE CONTINUED STRUGGLE FOR BLACK LIBERATION	
AFS 30010	AFRICAN AND AFRICAN-AMERICAN PHILOSOPHIES (DIVD)	
or PHIL 31070	AFRICAN AND AFRICAN-AMERICAN PHILOSOPHIES (DIVD)	
AFS 33100	THE AFRICAN AMERICAN FAMILY: HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES (DIVD)	
AFS 33130	GENDER AND SEXUALITY IN AFRICA AND THE AFRICAN DIASPORA	
AFS 33171	AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITIES (DIVD)	

AFS 37150	SECRET AND MAROON SOCIETIES IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE INSTITUTION OF SLAVERY
AFS 41192	PRACTICUM IN AFRICANA COMMUNITIES (ELR)
AFS 43100	RACE, CLASS AND FEMINIST THOUGHT
HDFS 44032	NONPROFIT FUNDRAISING AND GRANTWRITING
HIST 31082	HISTORY OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS AND BLACK POWER MOVEMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES
POL 30310	PUBLIC POLICY ANALYSIS
or POL 30450	URBAN POLITICS AND POLICY
SOC 42359	SOCIAL MOVEMENTS
or SOC 42558	WEALTH, POVERTY AND POWER

Minimum Total Credit Hours: 12

¹ Maximum 3 credit hours of AFS 41192 may be applied toward the concentration.

Global and Government Systems Concentration Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Concentration Requirements (courses count in major GPA)		
Concentration Electives, choose from the following:		12
AFS 23310	NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES	
AFS 33200	ANCIENT AFRICAN CIVILIZATIONS	
AFS 34100	ISLAMIC WEST AFRICA	
AFS 35200	AFRICAN SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SYSTEMS	
AFS 37020	THE MODEL AFRICAN UNION (ELR)	
AFS 37150	SECRET AND MAROON SOCIETIES IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE INSTITUTION OF SLAVERY	
AFS 41192	PRACTICUM IN AFRICANA COMMUNITIES (ELR)	
ECON 42075	INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS	
GEOG 37040	GEOGRAPHY OF AFRICA (DIVG)	
HIST 41132	HISTORY OF COLONIAL AFRICA, 1880-1994	
HIST 42142	AFRO-LATIN AMERICA	
POL 30500	INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THEORY	
or POL 30810	POLITICS OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMY	
POL 41990	COLUMBUS PROGRAM IN STATE ISSUES (ELR)	
or POL 42990	WASHINGTON PROGRAM IN NATIONAL ISSUES (ELR)	

Minimum Total Credit Hours: 12

¹ Maximum 6 credit hours of POL 41990 or POL 42990 may be applied toward the concentration.

² Maximum 3 credit hours of AFS 41192 may be applied toward the concentration.

Race, Gender and Sexuality Concentration Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Concentration Requirements (courses count in major GPA)		
Concentration Electives, choose from the following:		12
AFS 20300	BLACK IMAGES	
AFS 33110	BLACK WOMEN, CULTURE AND SOCIETY: HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES (DIVD)	
AFS 33120	THE BLACK MAN: HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES	

AFS 33130	GENDER AND SEXUALITY IN AFRICA AND THE AFRICAN DIASPORA
AFS 37100	AFRICANA WOMEN'S LITERATURE (DIVG)
ENG 35301	LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER: CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES (DIVD)
PSYC 40625	DEVELOPMENT OF GENDER ROLE AND IDENTITY (DIVD)
SOC 32565	SOCIOLOGY OF SEXUALITIES (DIVD)
SOC 32570	INEQUALITY IN SOCIETIES (DIVD)
or SOC 42568	RACE AND ETHNIC STUDIES (DIVD)
WMST 30001	FEMINIST THEORY

Minimum Total Credit Hours: 12

The Arts in Culture and Society Concentration Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Concentration Requirements (courses count in major GPA)		
Concentration Electives, choose from the following:		12
AFS 20300	BLACK IMAGES	
AFS 22000	CREATIVE WRITING IN THE BLACK WORLD	
AFS 22101	AFRICAN AMERICAN VISUAL ARTISTS	
AFS 31092	PRACTICUM IN AFRICAN THEATRE ARTS (ELR)	
or AFS 41192	PRACTICUM IN AFRICANA COMMUNITIES (ELR)	
AFS 32001	AFRICAN-AMERICAN LITERATURE TO 1900	
AFS 32050	AFRICAN LITERATURES (DIVG)	
AFS 34200	BLACK MUSIC REVISITED	
AFS 37100	AFRICANA WOMEN'S LITERATURE (DIVG)	
AFS 43095	SPECIAL TOPICS IN PAN-AFRICAN LITERATURE, ARTS AND CULTURES	
MUS 42111	AFRICAN MUSIC AND CULTURES	
or MUS 42161	HISTORY OF JAZZ (DIVD)	
THEA 11303	THE ART OF ACTING	
or THEA 41113	THEATRE IN A MULTICULTURAL AMERICA (DIVD)	

Minimum Total Credit Hours: 12

¹ Maximum 3 credit hours of AFS 41192 may be applied toward the concentration.

Graduation Requirements

Minimum Major GPA	Minimum Overall GPA
2.000	2.000

- Minimum 9 credit hours taken for any of the concentration must be upper-division (30000 or 40000 level).

Foreign Language College Requirement, B.A.

Students pursuing the Bachelor of Arts degree in the College of Arts and Sciences must complete 14-16 credit hours of foreign language.¹ To complete the requirement, students need the equivalent of Elementary I and II in any language, plus one of the following options²:

1. Intermediate I and II of the same language
2. Elementary I and II of a second language
3. Any combination of two courses from the following list:
 - Intermediate I of the same language, or ARAB 21401, ASL 19401, CHIN 25421, MCLS 10001, MCLS 20001, MCLS 20091,

MCLS 21417, MCLS 21420, MCLS 22217, MCLS 28403, MCLS 28404

¹ All students with prior foreign language experience should take the foreign language placement test to determine the appropriate level at which to start. Some students may start beyond the Elementary I level and will complete the requirement with fewer credit hours and fewer courses. This may be accomplished by (1) passing a course beyond Elementary I through Intermediate II level; (2) receiving credit through one of the alternative credit programs offered by Kent State University; or (3) demonstrating language proficiency comparable to Elementary II of a foreign language. When students complete the requirement with fewer than 14 credit hours and four courses, they will complete remaining credit hours with general electives.

² Certain majors, concentrations and minors may require specific languages, limit the languages from which a student may choose or require coursework through Intermediate II. Students who plan to pursue graduate study may need particular language coursework.

Roadmap

This roadmap is a recommended semester-by-semester plan of study for this major. However, courses designated as critical (!) must be completed in the semester listed to ensure a timely graduation.

Semester One		Credits
AFS 20001	INTRODUCTION TO AFRICANA STUDIES	3
AFS 23001	BLACK EXPERIENCE I: BEGINNINGS TO 1865 (DIVG) (KHUM)	3
UC 10097	DESTINATION KENT STATE: FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE	1
Foreign Language		4
Kent Core Requirement		3
Credit Hours		14
Semester Two		
AFS 23002	BLACK EXPERIENCE II: 1865 TO PRESENT (DIVD) (KHUM)	3
Foreign Language		4
Kent Core Requirement		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
General Elective		3
Credit Hours		16
Semester Three		
Concentration Elective		3
Foreign Language		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
Credit Hours		15
Semester Four		
Concentration Elective		3
Foreign Language		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
Credit Hours		15
Semester Five		
AFS 37001	THEORETICAL APPROACHES TO AFRICANA STUDIES	3
Kent Core Requirement		3

College General Requirement		3
College General Requirement		3
General Elective		3
Credit Hours		15
Semester Six		
AFS 37000	ORAL AND WRITTEN DISCOURSES IN AFRICANA STUDIES (WIC)	3
Concentration Electives		6
General Electives		6
Credit Hours		15
Semester Seven		
AFS 37010	RESEARCH METHODS IN AFRICANA STUDIES (ELR)	3
General Electives		12
Credit Hours		15
Semester Eight		
AFS 47099	SENIOR SEMINAR IN AFRICANA STUDIES (ELR) (WIC)	3
General Electives		12
Credit Hours		15
Minimum Total Credit Hours:		120