

What you can do with your AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES MAJOR



Major Skills



Cross-Cultural Literacy and Global Perspectives

You develop an awareness of and sensitivity to practice and perspectives of diverse cultural, historical, social, and political contexts of other cultures alongside your own; You understand the ways events and cultural perspectives in one country are linked to those in other countries; you critically examine stereotypes and inquire into the process of overcoming them.



Foreign Language Competency

You learn how to define and analyze societal and cultural currents, identify factors that contribute to social, political, and historical outcomes, and analyze connections between different disciplinary approaches to the study of race and society.



Creative Problem Solving

You understand how to define a problem and design ways to find answers; You use theoretical approaches in African Cultural Studies to study Africa; You expand your intellectual curiosity through analyses of texts and various media; generate original ideas, experiment and take risks to solve problems.



Research and Analytical Thinking

You learn the methods of conducting qualitative research and systematic approaches to formulate research questions and design studies to find answers (taking professional and ethical responsibility into account), identify strengths and weaknesses of research methods and approaches, integrate research by others into your analyses, report findings, and make recommendations.



Communication and Teambuilding

You build and maintain collaborative relationships to work effectively toward common goals while appreciating diverse viewpoints and shared responsibilities.



Oral and Written Communication

You communicate effectively through essays and oral presentations using appropriate academic styles. You engage in intellectual discussion to share knowledge, ideas, findings, and values with others and write and speak across disciplinary boundaries about existing research about Africa and the diaspora in the humanities and social sciences.

Supplement Your Skills With



Global & intercultural experience



Leadership, Service-Learning or Volunteering



Practice Language, Art and Other Cultural Expressions



Experience Fostering Professional Equity & Inclusion



Career & Self Development



Fluency in Working with Media & Technology

Chart Your Path Forward

Activate Your Handshake Account

for connections to jobs, internships, employer & alumni networking.

Explore Career Communities

to discover a wide variety of fields where you can turn your African Cultural Studies major into success.

Get Career & Internship Advising

from SuccessWorks to make a plan, whether you're a first-year student or about to graduate.

Get Started: successworks.wisc.edu

Put your African Cultural Studies major to WORK

Common Alumni Job Titles

- Administrative Director
- Counsel
- Country Representative
- Creative Director
- Editor
- Head of Marketing/Account Manager
- Intelligence Officer
- Language Teacher
- Medical Service Representative
- Outreach Coordinator
- Paralegal
- Professor/Lecturer
- Project Manager
- Speech Language Pathologist
- Translator/Interpreter

Common Employers of Alumni

- Advocate Aurora Health
- Chevron
- Clemson University
- Covance
- ELS Language Centers, Chicago
- Epic
- Fulbright Brazil
- Graco
- Lake Indaski
- Law Offices of Eve Rose Borenstein
- Mayo Clinic
- Northwestern University
- Special School District of St. Louis County
- LA Weekly
- University Health Services
- University of Wisconsin-Madison
- University of Zambia
- U.S Navy
- Wanda Smith for Fitchburg Alder
- Wisconsin Department of Health Services
- Wood Communications

Recent Grads' Career Plans

- 70%** Employment
- 20%** Continuing Education or Grad School
- 10%** Military/Volunteer Service/Other

Recent Grads' Employment Sectors

1. Education
2. Healthcare
3. Non-Profits
4. Arts & Entertainment
5. Government
6. Information Technology
7. Insurance
8. Legal
9. Media
10. Research

Where Alumni Live & Work:

- 32%** Wisconsin
- 10%** California
- 8%** Illinois
- 7%** New York
- 5%** Minnesota
- 4%** Ohio
- 34%** Other



"My experience in the African Cultural Studies program has proven immensely valuable, not only opening unexpected doors in my career, but equipping me with the cross-cultural perspective, language-learning competencies, and writing skills to be effective at facilitating meaningful learning across diverse international higher education and business settings."

Kassandra Robertson, 2011

Writing Instructor, Social & Political Science Program, Sabancı University
Istanbul, Turkey



"My study of African languages reinforced my commitment to promoting their study and enabled me to focus my research on Swahili and Gikuyu literature. I also learned grant writing skills by working with my advisor on successful proposals. I used the skills that I developed to strengthen the African language and African Studies programs at Yale and Michigan State."

Ann Biersteker, 1984

Associate Director of African Studies, Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI

Career Communities for African Cultural Studies Majors

SuccessWorks has eight Career Communities to connect you with career advising, resources and programs. Here are a few suggestions on where African Cultural Studies majors can start.

- Nonprofit & Education
- Healthcare & Wellbeing
- Government, Policy, International Affairs & Law
- Communications, Media & the Arts

Not inspired by these options? Visit SuccessWorks to explore more widely.

successworks.wisc.edu