Creating Progressive Global Leadership

We believe that classrooms are powerful sites for social change. We encourage our students to be critical thinkers, skillful writers, thorough researchers, politically conscious participants in popular culture, and active community members.

The AADS Department is dedicated to the study of the intellectual, political, artistic, and social experiences of people of African descent throughout Africa and the African Diaspora, including the United States.

Notable Black Studies Alumni

Career opportunities for Black Studies majors are endless. We know that sounds idealistic but its true. Don’t believe us? Check out this list of Black Studies Alumni!

- Michelle Obama, Princeton University- Attorney and First Lady of the U.S.
- Claudia Thomas, Vassar College- Author and first black female orthopedic surgeon in the U.S.
- Vince Carter, Univ of North Carolina- Professional NBA player.
- Angela Bassett, Yale University- Award-winning actress.
- Aaron McGruder, University of Maryland, College Park- Cartoonist, writer, and creator of the nationally syndicated comic strip The Boondocks.
- Ava Duvernay, Univ. of California, LA- Independent Filmmaker most known for her 2012 film Middle of Nowhere.

For more information, scan the QR code to see our undergraduate webpage or go to www.utexas.edu/cola/depts/aads
Introduction to the AADS Department

The African and African Diaspora Studies (AADS) Department at UT-Austin is the premier Black Studies department in the state of Texas, and the first to have a Ph.D. program in the south. Students interested in careers in such fields as education, law, politics, health and the fine arts, will find that an AFR major can accommodate any future career and academic plans.

AADS prepares students to think critically about social relations in the U.S. and around the world. In today’s global society, nearly every career requires knowledge about the ways in which race, gender, sexuality, and class impact transnational populations.

Career Skills Gained Through Black Studies

A degree in Black Studies will prepare you with skills necessary to succeed in the job market and beyond. Here are ten of the most common mindsets* that employers from various fields are looking for in their employees. AADS majors are:

- Analytic
- Global (International)
- Problem Solvers
- Creative
- Positive
- Strategic
- Systems (Capable)
- Flexible/Adaptive
- Reflective
- Collaborative

AADS provides its students with these mindsets through its commitment to interdisciplinary scholarship and creative production. As our majors analyze global social justice issues, they design creative solutions that enhance the lives of all people around the world.

*Dr. Katharine Brooks, Ed.D.

The AADSvantage: Opportunities to Apply Black Studies

Black Studies majors collaborate with local, national, and international organizations in the investigation and enhancement of the lives of Black people. To this end, AADS majors are given opportunities to participate in Austin-area internships and various study abroad programs, including Nicaragua, Brazil, and San Francisco. AADS also regularly hosts a ‘Jobs Week’ to help majors apply their interests to careers.