

AFRICAN AND BLACK DIASPORA STUDIES (BA)

The aim of the Department of African & Black Diaspora Studies (ABD) is to provide DePaul students with a systematic, interdisciplinary, and integrated course of study of Africa & the Black Diaspora, including Black America, the Afro-Caribbean and Afro-Latin America. The department offers students the possibility to major, double major, or minor in African and Black diaspora studies.

The Department's offerings provide students with opportunities to learn about and develop expertise in the cultures, histories, and societies of people of African descent. African & Black Diaspora Studies will also train students in comparative analysis (of cultures, regions, histories, religions, philosophies, etc.) through analysis of history, power, identity, gender, and race.

African and Black Diaspora Studies prepares students to pursue professions and careers in a variety of areas. ABD students have gone on to careers in fields such as law/legal studies, counseling, social work, academia, teaching, community work/advocacy, publishing, communication and media, marketing, public policy, and more.

Program Requirements	Quarter Hours
Liberal Studies Requirements	84
Major Requirements	48
Open Electives	60
Total hours required	192

Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- Explain the concept of diaspora as a global unifying concept by integrating attention to the diversity of groups that make up the Black Diaspora.
- Detect and differentiate the interactions of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and class.
- Identify and analyze multiple theories of Blackness: as a source of cultural identity, aesthetics, and/or as a basis of political, social, or national movements.
- Analyze and evaluate the ideological frameworks through which Black people have been defined and have defined themselves.
- Produce oral or written work based on primary and secondary sources that evaluate the contributions of African and Black people in the modern world.

College Core Requirements Study in the Major Field

The student's course of study in the College consists of three parts: Liberal Studies, the major field, and electives. Together these three parts contribute to the liberal education of the student which is the common purpose of all study in the College. By "liberal education" the College understands not only a deep and thorough knowledge of a particular area of study but a knowledge of the diverse areas of study represented by criticism, history, the arts, the behavioral and social sciences, philosophy, religious studies, the natural science, and mathematics.

The major field program generally is built upon a set of core courses and a specialized "concentration." The number of courses required for a major varies by department. Most students go beyond the minimum requirements, electing additional courses which both broaden and deepen their understanding of their chosen discipline.

Because no academic major program is built in isolation, students are required to pursue a number of electives of the student's choice. The inherent flexibility of this curriculum demands that the student consult an academic advisor at each stage in the total program and at least once prior to each registration.

Students will be prompted to visit the College Office for their official graduation check early in their senior year.

Declaration of Major, Minor and Concentration

All students in the College are required to declare a major field prior to beginning their junior year. The student will then be assigned a faculty advisor in the major field department or program and should make an appointment to see that advisor at his or her earliest convenience.

Students must declare or change majors, minors, and concentrations, via Campus Connection. However, for the purpose of exploring the possibility of changing a major field, the student should consult an academic advisor in the Office for Academic Advising Support.

The Modern Language Requirement (MLR)

All students will be required to demonstrate competence in a modern language (i.e., a language other than English) equivalent to the proficiency attained from one year of college-level language study. This Modern Language Requirement (MLR) may be demonstrated by:

- placing into 104 or above on the DePaul language placement exam
- completing the last course or earning AP/IB credit for the last course in the first-year college sequence of any language (e.g. 103 for DePaul language classes)
- completing a college course or earning AP/IB credit for a college course beyond the first-year level in any language (e.g. 104 or above for DePaul language classes)
- completing the final course of a four-year sequence of the same modern language in high school*
- completing a proctored exam by BYU and passing the exam (see the Department of Modern Languages website for registration details)
- completing a proctored Written Proficiency Test (WPT) by Language Testing International (LTI) and achieving a score of Beginner High or above (see the Department of Modern Languages website for registration details)

*Students are strongly encouraged to take the DePaul language placement exam even if they have met the MLR via study of a language in high school. This will ensure continuation of language study at the proper level.

Please note: Modern Languages courses with an E-designation are taught in English and may not be applied to the Modern Language Requirement.

Students who complete an Inter-College Transfer (ICT) to the College will abide by the MLR in place on the effective date of the ICT, regardless of when they first matriculated at DePaul.

Students who have met the MLR and wish to pursue further work in the language may elect the "Modern Language Option" (see below).

Language for Liberal Studies Option

The Language for Liberal Studies Option (<https://catalog.depaul.edu/undergraduate-core/liberal-studies-program/liberal-studies-program-guidelines/language-for-liberal-studies-option/>) is available to all BA students who wish to study a modern language beyond the level required by their College, and to all other undergraduate students without a modern language requirement who wish to study a language at any level.

Students selecting the Language for Liberal Studies Option may substitute a sequence of three courses in the same language for three domain courses.

The three Language for Liberal Studies Option substitutions must be made in three different domains, and any substitutions must be consistent with the principle that students complete at least one course in each learning domain.

Language for Liberal Studies Option substitutions may not be used to replace requirements in the Math & Computing, and Scientific Inquiry, domains.

Students majoring in one modern language may use the Language for Liberal Studies Option for study of a second language at the Intermediate level or above.

Modern Languages courses with an E-designation are taught in English and may not be applied to the Language for Liberal Studies Option.

NOTE: Please contact your college/school regarding additional information and restrictions about the Language for Liberal Studies Option.

External Credit and Residency

A student who has been admitted to the College begins residency within the college as of the first day of classes of the term in which the student is registered. Students in residence, whether attending on a full-time or part-time basis, may not take courses away from DePaul University without the written permission of the college. Permission must be obtained in advance of registration to avoid loss of credit or residency in the college; see the LAS website for more information.

Liberal Studies Requirements

Honors program requirements can be found in the individual Colleges & Schools section of the University Catalog. Select the appropriate college or school, followed by Undergraduate Academics and scroll down.

First Year Program		Hours
Chicago Quarter		
LSP 110 or LSP 111	DISCOVER CHICAGO or EXPLORE CHICAGO	4
Focal Point		
LSP 112	FOCAL POINT SEMINAR	4
Writing		
WRD 103	COMPOSITION AND RHETORIC I ¹	4
WRD 104	COMPOSITION AND RHETORIC II ¹	4
Quantitative Reasoning		
MAT 120	QUANTITATIVE REASONING ²	4
Sophomore Year		
Race, Power, and Resistance		

LSP 200	SEMINAR ON RACE, POWER, AND RESISTANCE	4
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Junior Year

Experiential Learning

Required	4
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Senior Year

Capstone		
ABD 391	CAPSTONE (See Note Below) ¹	4

¹ Students must earn a C- or better in this course.

² Readiness for MAT 120 is determined by the math placement test taken online after admission. Students may need to take developmental coursework prior to MAT 120. Students who complete MAT 120 and both a Computational Reasoning course and a Statistical Reasoning course in the Math and Computing Learning Domain take one less Learning Domain course. Students may not apply the course reduction to any Domain where only one course is required, and cannot be applied to the Scientific Inquiry Learning Domain. The MAT 120 requirement may be waived by passing a dedicated proficiency exam or it may be fulfilled by credit for advanced math coursework earned in-residence at DePaul (MAT 135, MAT 136, MAT 147, MAT 148, MAT 149, MAT 150, MAT 151, MAT 152 M or equivalent) or earned externally either as transfer credit from another college/university or as test credit through AP, CLEP, IB, or International A and A/S Level exams. Calculus course(s) may be used to fulfill any of the three QR/MCD requirements.

Learning Domains

Arts and Literature (AL) (<https://catalog.depaul.edu/undergraduate-core/liberal-studies-program/liberal-studies-learning-domains/arts-and-literature/>)

- 3 Courses Required

Historical Inquiry (HI) (<https://catalog.depaul.edu/undergraduate-core/liberal-studies-program/liberal-studies-learning-domains/historical-inquiry/>)

- 2 Courses Required

Math and Computing (MC) (<https://catalog.depaul.edu/undergraduate-core/liberal-studies-program/liberal-studies-learning-domains/math-and-computing/>)

- 2 Courses Required

[1 CR Course, and 1 SR Course]

Philosophical Inquiry (PI) (<https://catalog.depaul.edu/undergraduate-core/liberal-studies-program/liberal-studies-learning-domains/philosophical-inquiry/>)

- 2 Courses Required

Religious Dimensions (RD) (<https://catalog.depaul.edu/undergraduate-core/liberal-studies-program/liberal-studies-learning-domains/religious-dimensions/>)

- 2 Courses Required

Scientific Inquiry (SI) (<https://catalog.depaul.edu/undergraduate-core/liberal-studies-program/liberal-studies-learning-domains/scientific-inquiry/>)

- 2 Courses Required

[1 Lab Course, and 1 SWK Course]

Social, Cultural, and Behavioral Inquiry (SCBI) (<https://catalog.depaul.edu/undergraduate-core/liberal-studies-program/liberal-studies-learning-domains/social-cultural-and-behavioral-inquiry/>)

- 1 Course Required

Notes

A student majoring in African and Black Diaspora Studies (ABD) is required to complete the Capstone offered by the ABD Department. This is the case even if a student is double majoring (or pursuing a dual degree) and the secondary major (or degree) requires its own Capstone. An ABD major in the University Honors Program shall take the University Honors Capstone and the ABD Capstone.

Courses offered in the student's primary major cannot be taken to fulfill LSP Domain requirements. If students double major, LSP Domain courses may double count for both LSP credit and the second major. Students who choose to take an experiential learning course offered by the major may count it either as a general elective or the Experiential Learning requirement.

In meeting learning domain requirements, no more than one course that is outside the student's major and is cross-listed with a course within the student's major, can be applied to count for LSP domain credit. This policy does not apply to those who are pursuing a double major or earning BFA or BM degrees.

Major Requirements

Course Requirements

Course	Title	Quarter Hours
ABD 100	INTRODUCTION TO AFRICAN AND BLACK DIASPORA STUDIES	4
ABD 200	AFRICA: PEOPLES, CULTURES, IDEAS AND MOVEMENTS	4
ABD 206	AFRO-CARIBBEAN AND AFRO-LATIN AMERICA: PEOPLES, CULTURES, IDEAS AND MOVEMENTS	4
ABD 208	AFRICAN AMERICA: PEOPLES, CULTURES, IDEAS AND MOVEMENTS	4
4 300-level ABD Courses		16
4 ABD Electives at 200-level or 300-level		16
ABD 391	CAPSTONE	4

Core Courses

Students are required to complete four core courses (16-quarter credit hours) in African and Black Diaspora Studies (ABD). The core courses are designed to accomplish these goals:

- to introduce students to the learning goals and outcomes of the Department of African and Black Diaspora Studies;
- to introduce students to the main debates, concerns, and ideas in the distinct areas within African and Black Diaspora Studies;
- to emphasize the Vincentian tenet that questions of human value are central to scholarly inquiry; and
- to strengthen an understanding of the interrelationships and dynamics between Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America, the United States, and other spaces of the African Diaspora.

300-Level Courses

For this requirement, students must take four ABD courses (16-quarter credit hours) at the 300 level.

Any ABD 300-level course may apply toward the completion of the major's 300-Level requirement. All other 300-level courses must be approved by the African and Black Diaspora Studies department chair for application toward the 300-Level requirement.

These courses build upon the general foundation of knowledge provided by the core courses. They serve to reinforce and extend student knowledge about a particular area of study relating to Africa and/or the Black Diaspora as well as the Department's core sites of inquiry (culture, gender, history, power, and race).

To ensure that students are exposed to a variety of methodological approaches, students will endeavor to take courses in the social and behavioral sciences (i.e. Anthropology, Geography, History, International Studies, Psychology, Political Science, and Sociology), humanities (i.e. Art and Architectural History, Literature, Music, Philosophy, Religious Studies, and Theatre), and interdisciplinary studies (i.e. American studies, Critical Ethnic Studies, Latin American & Latino studies, Women's and Gender studies, LGBT studies, etc.).

Students who wish to take a 200-level course in partial fulfillment of this requirement must petition the Department of African and Black Diaspora Studies chair for approval (this is not common, and only allowed in exceptional circumstances).

Major Electives

Majors in the Department of African and Black Diaspora Studies will take four ABD courses as major field electives (16-quarter credit hours). These courses can be at the 200-level or 300-level. The Department urges students to consider courses at the 300-level to fulfill this requirement.

Such courses are designed to provide students with an opportunity to take courses related to their interests in African and Black Diaspora Studies and at the same time extend their academic preparation through coursework in allied fields. The selection of electives should be done in consultation with the student's ABD academic advisor.

Capstone

This senior seminar (four quarter hours) engages students in a synthesis of what they have learned through coursework. The capstone course will involve reading, writing, discussion, as well as the preparation of a substantive piece of work (e.g., a senior thesis, a research paper, etc.).

Open Electives

Open elective credits are also required to meet the minimum graduation requirement of 192 quarter-credit hours.