The African American and African studies minor is an interdisciplinary program designed to promote a vigorous understanding of the worldwide historical and current experience of African Americans and people of African descent. Through its pedagogical offerings, research activities, advocacy, and community and civic engagements, the program aims to promote awareness and the advancement of the cultures and institutions of African American and African cultural communities at the local, state, national, and international levels.

**Why UMD**

The courses are structured to provide a vast array of interdisciplinary, intellectual, and academic approaches to research, interpretation, and the dissemination of the multifaceted experiences and realities of the total Black global experience. The program leads initiatives to develop a seamless and tightly woven cross-disciplinary pedagogical and scholastic structure focusing on the study of African American, African, and Caribbean community life and development in the United States and the world at-large. The program, through courses, advising, seminars, lectures, and presentations, supports the academic and intellectual growth of students in an ever increasing multicultural and diverse world.