

BACHELOR OF LIBERAL ARTS: BLACK STUDIES EMPHASIS

University Requirements

General Education

UMKC Essentials is the university-wide curriculum that all undergraduate students will complete. The 30-credit hour program includes a First Year Experience course; three critical thinking courses in the areas of Arts & Humanities, Natural & Physical Sciences, and Social & Behavioral Sciences; a Culture and Diversity course; a Civic & Urban Engagement course; two courses in Composition and one course in Communication; and a Math Pathway course.

Constitution Course

Every undergraduate student must take a course covering the United States Constitution and the Missouri State Constitution before graduation. Course options are included in the program requirements section below.

Exit Examinations

Information on exit examinations is available in the Undergraduate Academic Regulations and Information (<http://catalog.umkc.edu/undergraduate-academic-regulations-information/graduation/exitexams>) section of the catalog.

Missouri Higher Education Civics Achievement Examination

In accordance with Missouri Senate Bill 807 (section 170.013.1), 'any student entering a public institution of higher education for the first time after July 2019 who is pursuing an associate's or bachelor's degree from such institution shall successfully pass an examination on the provisions and principles of American civics with a score of seventy percent or greater as a condition of graduation from such institution'. To satisfy this requirement at UMKC, students access the exam through the Canvas site. This requirement will be listed in the degree audit system as 'Take State Mandated Missouri Higher Education Civics Achievement Examination', and listed on the transcript as 'Missouri Civics Examination'.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students graduating from this program will:

- Analyze the experience, contributions, and condition of African-descent peoples in the evolution and formation of American society and culture.
- Examine the active role of Africa and the African Diaspora in global society and human culture.
- Apply Black Studies curriculum as a critical tool to analyze the human experience generally.
- Compare the breadth and depth of perspectives that give respect and voice to the Black experience.
- Apply social science and humanistic approaches to examine human society and culture.
- Demonstrate professional written and oral communication skills.

Program Requirements

UMKC Essentials

Code	Title	Credits
First Semester Experience Course (GEFSE)		3
Written Communication:		
ENGLISH 110	English I: Introduction To Academic Prose	3
ENGLISH 225	English II: Intermediate Academic Prose	3
Oral Communication (choose one of the following):		3
COMM-ST 110	Fundamentals Of Effective Speaking And Listening	
COMM-ST 140	Principles Of Communication	
COMM-ST 212	Argumentation And Debate (offered via dual credit only)	
COMM-ST 277	Interpersonal Communication	
Math Pathway (choose one of the following):		3
MATH 116	Mathematics For Liberal Arts	
STAT 115	Statistical Reasoning	
MATH 110	Precalculus Algebra	
MATH 120	Precalculus (5 credit hours)	
Any 200-level MATH or STAT course		
ACT Math Subscore of 28 or higher; or SAT Math Subscore of 660 or higher		
Critical Thinking in Arts & Humanities (GECRT-AH)		3

Critical Thinking in Natural & Physical Sciences (GECRT-SC)	3
Critical Thinking in Social & Behavioral Sciences (GECRT-SS)	3
Culture & Diversity Course (GECDV)	3
Civic & Urban Engagement Course (GECUE)	3
Total Credits	30

Constitution Course Requirement

Section 170.011.1 of the Missouri Revised Statutes, 2015, states that all candidates for a degree issued by a college or university in the state of Missouri must have “satisfactorily passed an examination on the provisions and principles of the Constitution of the United States and of the state of Missouri, and in American history and American institutions.”

Courses at UMKC that satisfy this state requirement are:

Code	Title	Credits
Choose one of the following:		3
CJC 364	The Supreme Court And The Criminal Process	
HISTORY 101	U.S. History to 1877	
HISTORY 102	U.S. History Since 1877	
HONORS 230	Honors American Government	
POL-SCI 210	American Government	
Total Credits		3

There are a few other ways this requirement can be satisfied for students transferring to UMKC:

- Take an equivalent course from the list above at a regionally accredited institution.
- Earn credit for one of the above courses through AP, IB, or CLEP.
- Take a course that directly satisfies the Missouri Constitution Requirement at another Missouri institution.
- Have a previous bachelors degree (or higher) from a regionally accredited institution.
- Have an Associate of Arts degree from a regionally accredited institution.
- Complete the 42 Hour Core at a Missouri institution and have it listed on the official transcript.

College of Arts & Sciences Degree Requirements

Students pursuing the bachelor of arts and bachelor of science degrees must complete a major. Students pursuing the bachelor of liberal arts degree must complete a minor. Additional details are available in the Student Services (<http://catalog.umkc.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/student-services>) section of the catalog.

Code	Title	Credits
Writing Intensive Course (300-level or above); Satisfied in program requirements below		
Laboratory Science Experience		1
Total Credits		1

B.L.A. Requirements with Black Studies Emphasis

Code	Title	Credits
Humanities Area		18
Natural Sciences Area		18
Social Sciences Area		18
Total Credits		54

The Emphasis Area Requirements outlined below may contribute to completion of BLA distribution requirements above.

Black Studies Emphasis Area Requirements

The emphasis area in Black Studies assists undergraduate students who want to obtain graduate and professional degrees in a variety of fields (master's degrees, Ph.D.'s, law, public health, counseling, social work, educational administration, business, journalism, social work, medicine, library or information science, public policy, public administration, and so on) where specialized knowledge of the broad-based experiences and perspectives of African descent peoples would be useful. At the same time, students learn skill sets that are applicable to a wide variety of circumstances, which prepare them for entry-level positions in private industry, government, and public or non-profit agencies.

Students must take **30 hours of Black Studies courses** to complete the emphasis area in Black Studies under the Bachelor of Liberal Arts Degree. A minimum of 24 hours of Black Studies courses must be at the 300 or 400 level or above. A minimum of 24 credit hours in Black Studies must be earned at UMKC.

Students declaring the Black Studies Emphasis under the Bachelor of Liberal Arts (<http://catalog.umkc.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/academic-departments-programs/liberal-studies-program/ba-liberal-arts>) (B.L.A.) must meet with the Black Studies undergraduate advisor (<http://cas.umkc.edu/blackstudies/faculty.asp>) to begin a plan of study prior to enrolling in courses.

Twelve of the 30 hours of coursework must include the **Core Black Studies** courses:

Code	Title	Credits
BLKS 201	Global Systems and the Origins of Black American Culture and Institutions	3
BLKS 302	Conceptual and Theoretical Foundations in African American Studies	3
BLKS 403WI	Writing for African American Studies	3
BLKS 404	Research Seminar	3
BLKS 490	Directed Study/Research	3
or BLKS 496	Internship in Black Studies	
Interest Area Electives		15
Total Credits		30

Beyond the 15 hours of required core courses, students may pursue either a **Humanities interest area** in Literature and Culture or a **Social Science interest area** in Institutions and Social Process (within the field of Black Studies), two areas already existing as divisions in the B.L.A. degree.

Humanities Interest Area—Literature and Culture (15 credits):

- Under this interest area the Black Studies emphasis will require four courses (12 credits) from the humanities interest area and one course (3 credits) from the social science interest area.

Social Science Interest Area—Institutions and Social Process (15 credits):

- Under this interest area the Black Studies emphasis will require four courses (12 credits) from the social science interest area and one course (3 credits) from the humanities interest area.

Examples of elective undergraduate courses in Black Studies are:

Code	Title	Credits
BLKS 315	Arts of African and New World Cultures (Humanities Focus)	3
BLKS 320	Critical Health Issues in Black Communities (Social Science Focus)	3
BLKS 321	The Black Family and Male-Female Relationships (Social Science Focus)	3
BLKS 331	African American Literature I (Humanities Focus)	3
BLKS 332WI	African American Novel (Humanities Focus)	3
BLKS 333	African American Literature II (Humanities Focus)	3
BLKS 325	African American Business Development (Social Science Focus)	3
BLKS 334	From Field Shout to Hip Hop: African American Poetic Traditions (Humanities Focus)	3
BLKS 335	Stages Toward Freedom: African American Dramatic Traditions (Humanities Focus)	3
BLKS 337	The Civil Rights Movement in African American Literature (Humanities Focus)	3
BLKS 338	Women's Literature in Africa and the African Diaspora (Humanities Focus)	3
BLKS 349	Symbols and Codes from the Diaspora: African American Visual Arts Survey (Humanities Focus)	3
BLKS 351	African American Art History: Part I, 1600-1960 (Humanities Focus)	3
BLKS 410	African American Art History: Part II, 1960-Present Day (Humanities Focus)	3
BLKS 496	Internship in Black Studies (Designate Focus with Adviser)	1-3

Examples of **Black Studies, Special Topics BLKS 480** courses with a **Humanities Focus** are:

- African American Experience in Literature (1773-1960)
- African American Migrations in Literature
- Contemporary African American Literature
- Film Adaptations in African American Literary Text
- Introduction to Caribbean Literature and Film

Examples of **Black Studies, Special Topics BLKS 480** courses with a **Social Science Focus** are:

- From Vaudeville to Rhythm and Blues
- Hip-Hop's Influence on African Americans and American Society
- Kansas City and the Black Experience
- Race, Class and Justice
- Racial and Ethnic Relations

Students are strongly encouraged to take the remaining **3 hours of coursework** as an **approved community engagement project/research** under **Directed Study**, BLKS 490 or through **Internship**, BLKS 496. Because faculty consent is required in order to enroll in the Directed Study or Internship options, students should begin building an academic relationship with the Black Studies faculty member whose academic background can best guide them.

Students cannot earn credit toward the Emphasis Area in Black Studies with a grade below a "C" in a Black Studies course.

To graduate with an Emphasis Area in Black Studies, students must achieve a minimum grade-point average of 2.0 in all courses accepted toward the emphasis area.

For more information on the Black Studies Program, please visit <http://cas.umkc.edu/blackstudies/>.

Code	Title	Credits
General Electives		23

Minimum GPA: 2.0

Total Credit Hours: 120

Tools for Planning and Fulfilling Academic Requirements

UMKC's Major Maps are detailed, semester by semester plans that lead a student to complete all degree requirements within four years. Plans include benchmarks and critical courses by term that assist a student's evaluation of progress and major "fit". In order to ensure that the appropriate courses are taken, students are encouraged to consult with the undergraduate advisor for this major. Please see the tab above to view the major map for this program.

UMKC's Transfer Guides (<https://www.umkc.edu/admissions/transfer-guides.html>) provide detailed guidance on recommended transfer coursework, plans of study, transfer timelines, and transfer contact information. To ensure a seamless transfer experience, students are encouraged to work with both their community college advisor and a UMKC advisor when planning their coursework.

UMKC's PlanMyDegree 'Audit' (<https://www.umkc.edu/registrar/academic-programs/plan-my-degree.html>) degree audit system provides an individual evaluation of all degree requirements (General Education, Degree Specific, Major Specific, etc.) for students' officially recorded (Office of Registration and Records) and "what if" exploratory plans of study. This evaluation is used to certify all graduation requirements.

UMKC's PlanMyDegree 'Plans' (<https://www.umkc.edu/registrar/academic-programs/plan-my-degree.html>) degree planning tool enables students to develop a personalized semester by semester plan of study towards completion of degree requirements for student's officially recorded (Office of Registration and Records) and "what if" exploratory plans of study. Update and edit your full plan to degree completion each term and confirm accuracy each semester with your Academic Advisor(s).

Major Map

Four Year Graduation Plan - Courses & Critical Benchmarks for First Time College Students:

UMKC's Major Maps are detailed, undergraduate four-year course outlines that inform students on the classes they should take and when to take them. Outlines are updated yearly. Graduate students should visit their program's individual school for program outlines.

The following is a sample course of study. Your path to graduation may vary based on factors such as college credit you earned while in high school, transfer work from other institutions of higher learning, and placement in Mathematics. You are responsible for checking prerequisites to any courses. It is the Student's responsibility to ensure that all program requirements are met. This guide is not a substitute for academic advisement.

First Year

Fall Semester	Credits	Spring Semester	Credits
GEFSE 101	3	ENGLISH 225	3
ENGLISH 110	3	COMM-ST 110	3

GECRT-SS 101	3	GECRT-SC 101	3
GECRT-AH 101	3	HISTORY 101, 102, or POL-SCI 210	3
MATH 116 or STAT 115	3	General Elective	3
		15	15

Second Year

Fall Semester	Credits	Spring Semester	Credits
GECUE 201	3	GECDV 201	3
BLKS 201	3	BLKS 302	3
Arts/Humanities BLA Area course	3	BLKS 3XX/4XX Interest Area Course	3
Natural Science/Math BLA Area course	3	Arts/Humanities BLA Area course	3
Lab Science ^{LO}	1	Natural Science/Math BLA Area course	3
General Elective	3		
		16	15

Third Year

Fall Semester	Credits	Spring Semester	Credits
BLKS 3XX/4XX Interest Area Course	3	BLKS 403WI	3
Arts/Humanities BLA Area course	3	BLKS 3XX/4XX Interest Area Course	3
Social/Behavioral Science BLA Area course	3	Arts/Humanities BLA Area course	3
Natural Science/Math BLA Area course	3	Social/Behavioral Science BLA Area course	3
General Elective	2	Natural Science/Math BLA Area course	3
		14	15

Fourth Year

Fall Semester	Credits	Spring Semester	Credits
BLKS 404	3	BLKS 496 or 490	3
BLKS 3XX/4XX Interest Area Course	3	BLKS 3XX/4XX Interest Area Course	3
3XX/4XX Arts/Humanities BLA Area course	3	3XX/4XX Arts/Humanities BLA Area course	3
3XX/4XX Social/Behavioral Science BLA Area course	3	3XX/4XX Social/Behavioral Science BLA Area course	3
Natural Science/Math BLA Area course	3	Natural Science/Math BLA Area course	3
		15	15

Total Credits: 120

CC Critical Courses provide feedback regarding major fit and help indicate likelihood of successful completion of chosen academic program and degree.

Recommendations to Maintain Progress toward 4-Year Degree Completion

- Completion of the First Semester Experience (FSE) course in first term.
- Early completion of Written Communication, Oral Communication, and Math Pathway requirements.
- Maintain the minimum GPA required for academic Good Standing for your degree program.
- Completion at least 15 credit hours toward degree each regular semester. (*Students may use the summer to ensure completion of 30 hours per academic year or to lighten Fall and Spring course loads.*)

- Enrollment in Critical Courses as listed on the Major Map is recommended in order to maintain timely progress and completion of prerequisite coursework.
- Early and continuous enrollment in Foreign Language through completion of level required for degree program is recommended. (*The Foreign Language placement exam is highly recommended to ensure placement in the correct course level.*)
- Regular consultation with Academic Advisor(s) for program(s) of study is strongly recommended and may be required for some degree programs..

Advising Contact Information

College of Arts & Sciences Student Services

09 Scofield Hall (basement)

<https://cas.umkc.edu/student-services/>

816-235-1148