Careers: African American Studies

The University of Maryland African American Studies graduates have been successful in many different fields post-graduation. Review additional resources at BSOS’s Your Career.

Using information from the University of Maryland graduation survey, we have compiled information about AASD majors, such as where they work or go to graduate school post-graduation. Check out the topics below to learn more about planning for your career!

Topics/Quick Links

- Entry Level Jobs for AASD Majors
- Careers Requiring Additional Education
- Explore Career Titles
- Career Planning Links
- Identify Skills Developed

“您 will stick out in that pile of resumes because this major is special, and not typical. You will be novel without even having to try.”

-Advice from AAS Alumni, What to Do with a Major in African American Studies Panel April 2017

Quotes from alumni

“I really liked that this major included a senior thesis. I mastered my writing skills and it made me such a strong scholar.”

-AAS Alum ‘96, What to Do with a Major in African American Studies Panel event April 2017

“This is a very marketable degree if you pay attention. I gained skills like writing and analyzing data. The network of support I developed through the Department was amazing.”

-AAS Alumna ‘07, What to Do with a Major in African American Studies Panel event April 2017
## Entry Level Job Titles for AASD Majors (Sample)

The sample career titles below may give you an idea of positions African American Studies majors are qualified for based on their major coursework, co-curricular activities, and/or past internships. AASD majors work in many different areas including advocacy, human services, government, policy, and entertainment. Find more titles [here](#).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account Associate</th>
<th>Non-Profit Program Director</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Archaeologist</td>
<td>Peace Corps Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archaeology Researcher</td>
<td>Permit Agent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archive Specialist</td>
<td>Policy Associate, Education and Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizen Science Program Assistant</td>
<td>Portal Administrator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Assistant</td>
<td>Program Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Manager</td>
<td>Public Relations Analyst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultant</td>
<td>Real Estate Agent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data Analyst/Processing Supervisor</td>
<td>Recreational Assistant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education, Research, and Programming Assistant</td>
<td>Regional Associate</td>
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<tr>
<td>EEO Specialist</td>
<td>Research and Outreach Assistant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epidemiology and Public Health Research Assistant</td>
<td>Security Monitor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event Planning Assistant</td>
<td>Senior Program Specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Research Assistant</td>
<td>Service Learning Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty Research Assistant</td>
<td>Staff Assistant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Service Officer</td>
<td>Staff Writer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising Manager</td>
<td>Student Affairs Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HR Assistant</td>
<td>Substitute Teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Resources Manager</td>
<td>Teacher, Tutoring or Private School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance Agent</td>
<td>Victim Services Specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journalist</td>
<td>Youth Advocate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legislative Aide</td>
<td>Youth Leadership Development Specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lobbyist</td>
<td>And many more</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Reported by University of Maryland African American Studies graduates. Obtained by the University Career Center & The President’s Promise Graduation Survey.

## Career Titles with Additional Education or Experience

Some career paths require an advanced degree. Here is a sample list of titles that require an advanced degree.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Advisor</th>
<th>Psychologist</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Archivist</td>
<td>Managing Editor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity Builder</td>
<td>Program Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultant</td>
<td>Research Associate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Anthropologist</td>
<td>Teacher/Professor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Service Officer</td>
<td>Social Worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head, Research and Media</td>
<td>Supervisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journalist</td>
<td>Teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawyer</td>
<td>Urban/Regional Planner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Additional Resources:**
- [What to do with the major](#), [Recent Graduates](#), and [Alumni Profiles](#), provided by the Department of African American Studies
- [UMD Pre-Law Advising](#), contact for guidance on law related graduate school options and course suggestions
- [Questions to consider](#) before applying to graduate school

University Career Center @ BSOS
Start Exploring Career Titles

Use the sample job titles (mentioned above) to start exploring career paths. The links below provide a short overview of the career titles.

- **Occupational Outlook Handbook**
- **O*NET Online**
- Use **FOCUS2** to explore career paths using self-assessment questionnaires
- Talk with professionals working in the field through the **Terrapins Connect**.
- **Candid Career**, informational career videos *(example to right)*

Career Planning Links for AASD Majors

Not sure where to start in planning your post-graduation activities? Review these resources.

- **Careers in Advocacy**, short article detailing the areas within advocacy
- **Center for Global Development**, offers information on a wide variety of development topics
- **Legal**, explore position types
- **Public policy career tracks**, list policy position titles, skills needed, and tips for breaking in
- What is **AASD** like to major in?
- **Vault Guides**, download over 60 industry guides

Ways AASD Majors Gain Experience

The links below will be a helpful start in locating internship openings.

*Sample list of opportunities*

- **Research Opportunities**, advice and links for undergraduate students pursing research experiences
- **BSOS Engagement Opportunities**, offers links on out of the classroom experiences
- UMD **Careers4Terps**, UMD maintains a job and internship database for off-campus positions for students
- UMD **National Scholarships Office**, opportunities for all levels of undergraduates

University Career Center @ BSOS
Skills Developed as an AASD Major

Skills lead to jobs. Which skills do you possess? Review the Skills Inventory list to examine soft skills to highlight on your resume and within interviews.

Sample list of skills developed in class by African American Studies majors.

Accumulating and interpreting information
Analytical skills
Contending analytical and theoretical approaches
Oral and written communication
Proactive and display initiative
Quantitative and qualitative methods
Research
Understanding of multidisciplinary work

Areas of Work for AASD Majors

African civilization
Artistic development
Black community
Black culture
Black history
Civil rights
Correction facilities (youth/adult and private/public)
Cultural anthropology
Economic development
Education
Halfway houses and pre-release programs
Immigration and naturalization services
Justice
Law
Local, state, and federal courts
Nonprofit organizations
Police department: State, City, County
Policy research
Political development
Psychology
Public management/ policy
Racism
Reintegration programs
Social change
Social issues
Urban planning
Youth group home
Plus many more

University Career Center @ BSOS
Job & Internship Search Links for AASD Majors

Applying for an advertised position on a large board is an ineffective job/internship search strategy, but it can be helpful in researching what the typical qualifications are for a field or position. African American Studies undergraduates work in many different fields so the list below is only a sample of resources for you to utilize.

Advocacy/Lobbying
- [Activist Job Board](#), search for positions with the Human Rights, Civil Rights, or Advocacy fields
- [Lobbying Jobs.com](#), lobbying, advocacy, legal, etc. positions advertised

Federal, State, & Local Government
- [Federal Government Jobs](#), list of federal government agencies and their hiring websites
- [Federal Job Search](#), search for federal positions by profession or location
- [Job wonk, DC Jobs & Internships](#), DC opportunities listed as global, U.S., business, and society categories
- [State and Local Government on the Net](#), directory provides convenient one-stop access to the websites of thousands of state agencies and city and county governments
- [State of Maryland](#), position openings in Maryland
- [Student jobs](#), with the federal government

Nonprofit
- [AmeriCorps](#), post-graduation service based positions at nonprofits, schools, public agencies, and community and faith-based groups across the country
- [Corporation for National and Community Service](#), federal agency that engages more than 5 million Americans in service through its core programs -- Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and the Social Innovation Fund
- [Idealist Job Board](#), lists volunteer, internship, and job opportunities across the country in the nonprofit field
- [Riley Guide: Nonprofits, Associations, Foundations](#)

Law Related Links
- [FindLaw](#), positions listed across the country for paralegals to lawyers
- [National Federation of Paralegal Associations](#), career center and information about certification
- [U.S. Courts](#), country wide position database
- [UMD Pre-Law Advising](#) resources
- [WashLaw](#), Maryland law & government resources

Public Policy
- [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#), job opportunities
- [Global Policy Forum](#), internship opportunities
- [Jobs in Think Tanks](#), listing offered by the U.S. Department of State
- [Policy jobs and internships](#), listing

Political
- Add your resume to a sortable [resume bank on DemCom](#), the official intranet for House Democratic staff
- [HillZoo](#), Jobs on Capitol Hill
- [RC Jobs](#), your Capital Job Source

Social Services
- [I Hire Social Services](#), niche job board dedicated to the social service industry
- [Jobs in the Social Science Fields](#), list links to more job boards and tips for breaking into the social science field
- [Peace Corps](#), 2-year commitment to volunteer abroad
- [Social Service](#), lists positions in mental health, case management, domestic violence, community development, youth development, child welfare, developmental disabilities and all other areas of social services

Aggregate search engines yield more advertised opportunities because of the algorithm used to search the entire web. Examples: [Indeed.com](#), [Linkup](#), [Simplyhired](#). Learn more about search strategies at [http://go.umd.edu/internsearch](http://go.umd.edu/internsearch).
Employers of AASD Graduates

The *sample* list below includes employers who have recruited UMD African American Studies undergraduates.

AIM International, Inc.  Montgomery County MD Department of Recreation
Alliance for Healthy Homes  National Governor's Association
American Geophysical Union  National Japanese American Memorial Foundation
Bankers Life and Casualty Company  National Park Service
Booz Allen Hamilton  Partnership for American Families
Caleb Missionary Relief Services  Project Performance Corporation
City Year, Washington, DC  Public Allies
Compost Cab  Reading Is Fundamental
CoStar Group, Inc.  Rockville Day Care Association
District of Columbia Public Schools  Scottsdale Prosecutor's Officer
Dreamers, Inc.  Self-Employed
Education Station  Smithsonian Institution
Federal Trade Commission  Teach for America
Global Peace Foundation  Time, Inc.
Harlem Ivy Program  U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Kidsbridge Tolerance Museum  United States Agency for International Development
M & S Communications Group, Inc.  University of Maryland
Maryland State Highway Administration  University of Maryland, College Park
MD Department of Recreation, Montgomery County  Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
MD General Assembly  Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission
MD National Capital Parks and Planning Commission  Youth Dreamers, Inc.
Mikulski for Senate  **Plus many more**

Connect and Grow Your Network

Use these sample opportunities to meet professionals in your field of interest to learn about the field, establish new networking contacts, and conduct informational interviews.

**Sample Engagement Opportunities**
- Connect with BSOS alumni
- DC Link Tank, find citywide events, organizations and people engaging on topics that matter to you
- Maryland’s Premier Online Events Calendar
- Meetup, locate people in your area with similar interests or within your industry of interest
- UMD University Career Center Event Calendar of employers and panelist visiting campus

**Social Media**
- Join LinkedIn groups
- Connect with other BSOS alumni in the UMD College of Behavioral and Social Sciences LinkedIn group
- Tips for using LinkedIn to make industry specific connections

**Not an exhaustive list**
Need help starting your career exploration or job search? Schedule a career consultation appointment with the University Career Center & The President’s Promise. Get started mapping your career action plan today!

University Career Center & The President’s Promise

College of Behavioral and Social Sciences
@UMDCareerCenter | www.careers.umd.edu | http://go.umd.edu/UCCBSOS
CAREER the Turtle...because SUCCESS starts here.