Careers: African American Studies

The University of Maryland African American Studies graduates have been successful in many different fields post-graduation. AASD majors work in many different areas including advocacy, human services, government, policy, and entertainment.

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. Review additional resources at the University Career Center @ BSOS Your Career webpage.

Related Titles/Industry (Sample)

Explore career paths of AASD majors with LinkedIn’s Alumni tool.
Note: Must have a LinkedIn account to access.

Data | Research

Job Titles:
Archaeology Researcher
Archive Specialist
Assistant Program Analyst
Data Analyst
Director, International Trade and Statistics
Education, Research, and Programming Assistant
Executive Research Assistant
Faculty Research Assistant
Program Analyst
Research Analyst
Research Associate
Research and Outreach Assistant

Organizations:
American Institutes for Research
CAS de Maryland
Center for International Development and Conflict Management
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CoStar
Deloitte
Howard University
Pew Research Center
Society of the Plastics Industry, The
Smithsonian Institution
Universal Service Administrative Co.
U.S. African Development Foundation

Entry tips:
Important qualities/skills generally include: analytic, problem-solving, and math/statistics skills.
There are many research opportunities on campus.
Add to your hard skills by completing video series in data analysis with LinkedIn Learning.

Non-Profits | Education | Helping Professions

Job Titles:
Academic Advisor
Associate Director of Equity and Inclusion
Citizenship Program Coordinator
Community Manager
Instructor
Mental Health Worker
Non-Profit Program Director
Peace Corps Member
Service Learning Coordinator
Student Affairs Coordinator
Substitute Teacher
Teacher
Victim Services Specialist
Youth Advocate

Organizations:
Baltimore Youth Arts
CAS de Maryland
D.C. Public Schools
George Washington University
Human Rights Campaign
Indian Creek School
KIPP DC
Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders
Montgomery County Public Schools
Peace Corps
Prince George’s County Public Schools
Sheppard Pratt Health System
University of Maryland

Entry tips:
Important qualities/skills generally include: communication, organizational, and creativity skills.
Apply for experiences working with youth or populations of interest while in school to demonstrate and test your interest.
For detailed tips, visit Vault’s Guide to Education.
## Business

**Job Titles:**
- Account Associate
- Business Manager
- Consultant
- Digital Marketing Consultant
- Founder
- Fundraising Manager
- HR Assistant
- Independent Buyer
- Insurance Agent
- Permit Agent
- Program Management Specialist
- Public Relations Analyst
- Real Estate Agent
- Reporter
- Quality & Compliance Coordinator

**Organizations:**
- Accenture
- ADP
- Black Sports Online
- Booz Allen Hamilton
- Buffalo Exchange
- Capital Sports Ventures
- Cypress Benefits Group, Inc.
- Federal Trade Commission
- Glasgow Group, The
- Innovative Clinical Associates
- Shopify
- U.A.F. Consulting
- University of Maryland

**Entry tips:**
*Important qualities/skills generally include:* critical thinking, innovation, and problem-solving skills.

- Conduct [informational interviews](#) with alumni to learn more about your field(s) of interest.
- Check out Vault’s [Guide to Entrepreneurial Jobs](#).

## Government | Policy | Law

**Job Titles:**
- Associate Director of Member Engagement
- Business Immigration Paralegal
- Deputy Executive Director
- Event Coordinator
- Executive Research Associate
- Legislative Aide
- Legislative Director, PG County’s House Delegation
- Lobbyist
- Policy Associate
- Political Director
- Public Policy Advocate
- Public Policy Specialist
- Research and Policy Analyst

**Organizations:**
- ATF
- ACLU of Maryland
- CASA de Maryland
- Congressional Black Caucus Institute
- DCCC
- Erickson Immigration Group
- Prince George’s County Council, District 9
- Maryland General Assembly
- NAACP
- University of Maryland
- U.S. Department of Defense
- U.S. Department of State
- U.S. House of Representatives

**Entry tips:**
*Important qualities/skills generally include:* varies based on job function. Most professional apply out of a passion for service or the mission of the agency speaks to them.

- Federal opportunities:
  - [USAJobs](#)
  - [Application tips](#)
Use the sample job titles listed in this document to start exploring career paths. 

The links below provide search boxes for you to locate more information on the titles as well as search for other options. 

- **Occupational Outlook Handbook**, a career title dictionary
- **O*NET Online**, the nation's primary source of occupational information
- **FOCUS2**, explore career paths using self-assessment questionnaires
- **Terrapins Connect**, talk with professionals working in the field through UMD’s alumni network
- **Federal positions by major**, research career titles with the federal government related to your major

**Vault Guides** - browse 100’s of industry guides to gain inside tips (see examples below).

*Note- Access Vault through your Careers4Terps account for FREE.*

The links below will be a helpful starting point in locating opportunities. **Identify the type of experience** that meets your needs. 

**Sample list of opportunities:**

- **BSOS Engagement Opportunities** - browse links on out of the classroom experiences
- **Careers4Terps** - check out job and internship openings for off-campus positions for UMD students
- **UMD National Scholarships Office** - review a listing of opportunities for UMD
- **Federal government internships** - links to openings and application tips
- **Start your search with these tips** - provided by the University Career Center @ BSOS
- **Browse positions** - featured in Careers4Terps

**The UMD Department of African American Studies offers:**

- **Internships**
- **Study Abroad**
- **Teaching Assistantships**
- **Research**
Internships are a great way to try out an interest, regardless if they are directly related to your major. Employers tend to favor job seekers who have had an internship in the field they are hiring for.

**Sample internship titles/sites**
- Campaign Intern, *Fair Sentencing of Youth*
- Community Impact Intern, *United Way of Frederick County*
- Congressional Intern, *U.S. House of Representatives*
- Counselor Intern, *Parks & People Foundation*
- Digital Intern, *U.S. House of Representatives*
- Family and Community Engagement Intern, *Institute for Educational Leadership*
- Intern, *Black Child Development Institute*
- Intern, *National Council for Negro Women*
- Intern, *Superior Court of the District of Columbia*
- Intern, *WUSA 9 News*
- Major Investigations Unit Intern, *State’s Attorney for Baltimore City*
- Marketing Intern, *Live Nation Entertainment*
- Politics Marketing Intern, *Blavity*
- Public Service Aide Intern, *Prince George’s County Council*
- Research Assistant, *Center for Substance Abuse Research*
- Research Assistant Intern, *American Institutes for Research*
- Research Intern, *The Judge Alexander Williams, Jr. Center for Education, Justice and Ethics*
- U.S.-Africa Business Center Intern, *U.S. Chamber of Commerce*

**Did you know?**
“Whether or not one has an internship impacts short-term and longer-term career success. Survey takers who completed at least one internship received a job offer more quickly and had a higher first position salary than those who did not.”
-NACE

**Skills Developed**

*Skills lead to jobs. Which skills do you possess?*

- Assess your skills, abilities, interests, and values and explore how they relate to career options.
- Complete this skills inventory to get started.

**African American Studies majors have skills in...**

- Accumulating and interpreting information
- Analysis
- Contending analytical and theoretical approaches
- Oral and written communication
- Proactivity and initiative
- Quantitative and qualitative methods
- Research
- Understanding of multidisciplinary work

Add to your skill set with these learning videos/courses.
Graduate School Programs

Start researching your career path of interest to identify the educational requirements. The list below offers a brief overview of some of the more popular graduate degree programs and institutions our AASD undergraduates have attended.

- African American Studies, Ph.D.
- Law, J.D.
- Medicine, M.D.
- Psychology, M.S.
- Psychology, Ph.D.
- Public Health, M.P.H.
- Public Policy, M.P.P.
- Social Work, M.S.W.
- Student Affairs, M.A.
- Urban Planning, M.S.

Graduate School Resources

- Peterson’s Graduate School, research programs
- Questions to consider before applying
- Application timeline: stay on track with your graduate school application
- Tips for completing the application
- Financing ideas for graduate school

Need help starting your career exploration or job search? Schedule a career consultation appointment with the University Career Center. Get started mapping your career action plan today!

College of Behavioral and Social Sciences
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