

African Studies Program
Student Learning Outcomes for Minors and Certificates

Note:

- “Program Goal” – goals for the program; relevant for students pursuing Minors, Certificates, and for a potential ASP Major

-SLOs provided for each Minor and the Certificate

Minor in African Studies (The Minor is intended to give students a broad, interdisciplinary understanding of Africa. It complements a wide range of majors.)

Program Goal 1: Global Understanding and Cultural Competence in African Societies (Possess knowledge of forces, ideas, and actions related to artistic, linguistic, social, political, economic, religious, gendered, and racialized processes in historical, comparative, and global context)

Student Learning Outcomes related to Goal 1 for the Minor:

- a. Form a foundational knowledge of the diversity of Africa’s peoples, cultures, geographies, histories, and global diasporas
- b. Have a broad understanding of interdisciplinary perspectives and approaches used in studying the history, contemporaneity, and diversity of the African continent
- c. Communicate socially, at a basic level, in a language spoken on the continent

Program Goal 2: Develop Analytic Skills (utilize a variety of methods to gather and interpret evidence, and then formulate and evaluate arguments relevant to African Studies)

Student Learning Outcomes related to Goal 2 for the Minor:

- a. Identify key conceptual and theoretical models for understanding African peoples’ experiences
- b. Utilize and evaluate different methods for generating African Studies knowledge
- c. Use skills to critically assess modes of knowledge production related to Africa (be they modes centered in the media, popular culture, education, or the political realm)

Program Goal 3: Advance Communication Skills (write and present clear evidence-based arguments about African history, politics, and culture being cognizant of different audiences and their needs and purposes)

Student Learning Outcomes related to Goal 3 for the Minor:

- a. Develop a line of questioning that produces a logical, well-supported argument and revise arguments in response to new evidence or perspectives
- b. Evaluate arguments for logical coherence, good use of evidence and comprehensiveness

- c. Attain experience in oral speaking, as well as working collaboratively in a group

Program Goal 4: Engage in Ethical and Civic Action in Global Context (appreciate the consequences of knowledge about the human condition and the role of African studies in helping understand the contemporary world)

Student Learning Outcomes related to Goal 4 for the Minor:

- a. Learn how to be a global citizen
- b. Understand ethical, political, racialized, and practical concerns related to African Studies
- c. Identify the relevance of African Studies knowledge for other professions (ex: education, non-government organizations, government, business)

Certificate in African Studies (The certificate seeks to give students a broad, interdisciplinary understanding of Africa, as well as intermediate-level competence in an African language. It can provide a background for careers in the Foreign Service, government, business, law, the academic world and other areas.)

Program Goal 1: Global Understanding and Cultural Competence in African Societies (Possess knowledge of forces, ideas, and actions related to artistic, linguistic, social, political, economic, religious, gendered, and racialized processes in historical, comparative, and global context)

Student Learning Outcomes related to Goal 1 for the Certificate:

- a. Form a foundational knowledge of the diversity of Africa's peoples, cultures, geographies, histories, and global diasporas
- b. Have a broad understanding of interdisciplinary perspectives and approaches used in studying the history, contemporaneity, and diversity of the African continent; have a depth of knowledge and understanding in two disciplines' approaches to African Studies
- c. Communicate socially, and in a professional manner, in an African language spoken on the continent

Program Goal 2: Develop Analytic Skills (utilize a variety of methods to gather and interpret evidence, and then formulate and evaluate arguments relevant to African Studies)

Student Learning Outcomes related to Goal 2 for the Certificate:

- a. Identify key conceptual and theoretical models for understanding African peoples' experiences
- a. Utilize and evaluate different methods for generating African Studies knowledge
- b. Use skills to critically assess modes of knowledge production related to Africa (be they modes centered in the media, popular culture, education, or the political realm)
- c. Contextualize and analyze current African issues

Program Goal 3: Advance Communication Skills (write and present clear evidence-based arguments about African history, politics, and culture being cognizant of different audiences and their needs and purposes)

Student Learning Outcomes related to Goal 3 for the Certificate:

- a. Develop a line of questioning that produces a logical, well-supported argument and revise arguments in response to new evidence or perspectives

- b. Evaluate arguments for logical coherence, good use of evidence and comprehensiveness
- c. Attain experience in oral speaking, as well as working collaboratively in a group
- d. Communicate socially, and in a professional manner, in an African language spoken on the continent

Program Goal 4: Engage in Ethical and Civic Action in Global Context (appreciate the consequences of knowledge about the human condition and the role of African studies in helping understand the contemporary world)

Student Learning Outcomes related to Goal 4 for the Certificate:

- a. Learn how to be a global citizen
- b. Understand ethical, political, racialized, and practical concerns related to African Studies
- c. Identify the relevance of African Studies knowledge and methods for other professions (ex: education, non-government organizations, government, business)

African Languages Minor (The African Languages Minor permits students to reach proficiency in one of the languages offered at IU, gain social and cultural knowledge related to the language, and receive an introduction to African linguistics or pragmatics. Students concentrate on one of the languages offered, namely Akan/Twi, Bamana, Kinyarwanda, Swahili, Yoruba, or Zulu.)

Program Goal 1: Global Understanding and Cultural Competence in African Societies

(Possess knowledge of forces, including the forces, ideas, and actions related to artistic, linguistic, social, political, economic, religious, gendered, and racialized processes in historical, comparative, and global context)

Student Learning Outcomes related to Goal 1 for the African Languages Minor:

- a. Communicate socially, and in a professional manner, in an African language
- b. Form a foundational knowledge of the diversity of Africa's peoples, cultures, geographies, histories, and global diasporas
- c. Form a depth of knowledge about a particular linguistic group/peoples on the continent (ex: Swahili peoples and cultures, and Kiswahili as a Bantu language)

Program Goal 2: Develop Analytic Skills (utilize a variety of methods to gather and interpret evidence, and then formulate and evaluate arguments relevant to African Studies)

Student Learning Outcomes related to Goal 2 for the African Languages Minor:

- a. Identify key conceptual and theoretical models for understanding African languages and cultural norms
- b. Use skills in African pragmatics to understand language use in the target language, including how context contributes to meaning

Program Goal 3: Advance Communication Skills (write and present clear evidence-based arguments about African history, politics, and culture being cognizant of different audiences and their needs and purposes)

Student Learning Outcomes related to Goal 3 for the African Languages Minor:

- a. Develop skills that meet the foreign language learning standards of communication, cultures, connections, comparisons and communities
- b. Communicate in an African language spoken on the continent; develop at least intermediate-level proficiency in speaking, writing, listening, reading
- c. Craft presentations in the target African language that are responsive to the needs of different audiences, and their major field of study
- d. Attain experience in oral speaking, as well as working collaboratively in a group

Program Goal 4: Engage in Ethical and Civic Action in Global Context (appreciate the consequences of knowledge about the human condition and the role of African studies in helping understand the contemporary world)

Student Learning Outcomes related to Goal 4 for the African Languages Minor:

- a. Through language, be able to engage indigenous language speakers in contemporary issues
- b. Identify the relevance of African Studies knowledge for other professions (ex: education, non-government organizations, government, business)

African Expressive Culture Minor (The Minor in African Expressive Culture offers an alternative to the general African Studies Minor and Certificate by focusing on African creative activities. Drawing on the African Studies Program's strong faculty expertise in expressive traditions, this Minor allows students to take several courses across a spectrum of creativity such as literature, music, and the visual arts, or concentrate in any of these. It also permits students to concentrate on a particular geographic area of the African continent.)

Program Goal 1: Global Understanding and Cultural Competence in African Societies (Possess knowledge of forces including the forces, ideas, and actions related to artistic, linguistic, social, political, economic, religious, gendered, and racialized processes in historical, comparative, and global context)

Student Learning Outcomes related to Goal 1 for the African Expressive Cultures Minor:

- a. Develop knowledge of African civilizations (including beliefs, values, philosophies, cultural practices, and art forms)
- b. Through the arts, form a foundational knowledge of the diversity of Africa's peoples, cultures, geographies, histories, and global diasporas
- c. Have a broad understanding of interdisciplinary perspectives and approaches used in studying the history, contemporaneity, and diversity of the African continent

Program Goal 2: Develop Analytic Skills (utilize a variety of methods to gather and interpret evidence, and then formulate and evaluate arguments relevant to African Studies)

Student Learning Outcomes related to Goal 2 for the African Expressive Cultures Minor:

- a. Develop knowledge of methodologies used in studying, comparing, and contrasting African artistic forms
- b. Analyze written texts and works in literature, the visual arts, music, or other performing arts, as well as applicable philosophical and religious thought, and intellectual and cultural traditions from both contemporary and historical perspectives.
- c. Critically evaluate the quality of source materials

Program Goal 3: Advance Communication Skills (write and present clear evidence-based arguments about African history, politics, and culture being cognizant of different audiences and their needs and purposes)

Student Learning Outcomes related to Goal 3 for the African Expressive Cultures Minor:

- a. Develop a line of questioning that produces a logical, well-supported argument and revise arguments in response to new evidence or perspectives
- b. Develop research skills and learn best practices for writing a research paper on an Africa-focused topic in the arts and humanities

Program Goal 4: Engage in Ethical and Civic Action in Global Context (appreciate the consequences of knowledge about the human condition and the role of African studies in helping understand the contemporary world)

Student Learning Outcomes related to Goal 4 for the African Expressive Cultures Minor:

- a. Understand the ethical, political, racialized, and practical concerns related to doing African Studies research on the arts