Bachelor of Arts

INTRODUCTION TO THE MAJOR

Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies is dedicated to the multidisciplinary study of historical and contemporary experiences of Americans of Asian ancestry in local, national and global contexts. The program explores connections among Asian communities in the United States and around the world in terms of the entangled histories and circuits of migration and the interconnected space through which people, capital, ideas, influences, and activism flow among Asian diasporic communities.

The Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies major and minor are offered by the Department of Ethnic Studies, which also offers a major and minor in Ethnic Studies as well as a minor in Race and the Law.

“AAADS offers students the opportunity to learn about the history of migration, the gendered racialization of Asians, the diversity within the group, and the multiple ways in which they have struggled for belonging and social justice in both national and global contexts.”

– Lok Siu, Associate Professor

THE MAJOR CURRICULUM

The Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies curriculum offers students a deeper understanding of the histories and contemporary realities of the different ethnic groups that comprise the “Asian American” category. Through classroom-based and experiential learning, our students engage with critical issues such as labor, health, representation and cultural production, religion, class, gender, generation, law, and social activism.

AMPLIFY YOUR MAJOR

- Enrich your studies with a summer minor in Race and the Law.
- Volunteer for local organizations such as the East Bay Asian Youth Center or Asian Women's Shelter.
- Complete a senior honors thesis in the major.

HOW TO USE THIS MAP

Use this map to help plan and guide your experience at UC Berkeley, including academic, co-curricular, and discovery opportunities. Everyone’s Berkeley experience is different and activities in this map are suggestions. Always consult with your advisors whenever possible for new opportunities and updates.

Visit ue.berkeley.edu/majormaps for the latest version of this major map.

CONNECT WITH US

Cal Day
Come to UC Berkeley’s annual Open House in April for information sessions, campus tours, special talks, and more.

Golden Bear Orientation
Join your peers in the campus-wide UC Berkeley orientation program for all new students.

Events
Attend department events with students, faculty, and staff. Visit ethnicstudies.berkeley.edu for news and updates.

ADVISING

Students can contact the major advisors to schedule appointments or ask questions by emailing Laura Jimenez-Olvera at laura@berkeley.edu or Dewey St. Germaine at deweystg@berkeley.edu.

Advising Hours
Monday - Friday, 9:30-11:30am, 1:30-4pm
ASIAN AMERICAN AND ASIAN DIASPORA STUDIES
Bachelor of Arts

DESIGN YOUR JOURNEY

FIRST YEAR
- Meet your major and college advisor to discuss your academic plan.
- Enroll in ETH STD 11AC: Introduction to Ethnic Studies.
- Reflect on your education so far and continue to set goals for yourself.
- Discuss career options with a Career Educator.
- Visit Berkeley Career Engagement and the Career Counseling Library.
- Explore career fields in the Career Connections Networking Series or Cal Job Shadow Program.

SECOND YEAR
- Enroll in ASAMST 20AC: Asian American Communities and Race Relations, ASAMST 20B: Contemporary Issues in Asian American Communities or ASAMST 20C: Cultural Politics and Practices in Asian American Communities.
- Complete the three lower division prerequisites and meet with your major advisor to declare the major.
- Review major guidelines for study abroad.
- Focus on upper division requirements and plan for electives you wish to take.
- Review your degree progress with your major and college advisors.
- Ask the major advisor about the honors program.
- Attend Asian American and Asian Diaspora Program events.
- Consider becoming a Golden Bear Orientation Leader and welcome new students to UC Berkeley.
- Get involved with campus issues as an American Cultures Engaged Scholarship course.
- Enrich your studies with a summer minor.
- Assist faculty in their research through the OURS database.
- Get 1:1 mentoring with APASD listserv.
- Meet with your major college advisor.

THIRD YEAR
- Attend the Undergraduate Research and Discovery Course.
- Check out resources from Asian Pacific American Student Development (APASD) and sign up for the APASD listserv.
- Get to know professors and graduate student instructors during their office hours.
- Planning a senior thesis or project? Apply to the Haas Scholars Program or SURF.
- Explore campus centers and institutes like the Center for Race & Gender, Center for Research on Social Change, Institute for the Study of Societal Issues, and Oshering & Belonging Institute.
- Study and intern in Washington D.C. with UC Berkeley or Cal in the Capital.
- Support underrepresented communities through a field study internship.
- Volunteer locally with the East Bay Asian Youth Center or Asian Women’s Shelter.
- Gain leadership skills through LEAP Emerge or the CAUSE Leadership Academy.
- Explore service opportunities after graduation, such as Peace Corps, Teach for America, or U.S. Department of State.
- Complete any “bucket list” courses and remaining electives you wish to take.
- Complete any “bucket list” courses and remaining electives you wish to take.
- Get inspired with the collections of the Ethnic Studies Department and the Multicultural Community Center.
- Attend the Undergraduate Research and Discovery Course.
- Check out events sponsored by the Ethnic Studies Department.

FOURTH YEAR
- Focus on upper division requirements and plan for electives you wish to take.
- Review your degree progress with your major and college advisors.
- Ask the major advisor about the honors program.
- Attend Asian American and Asian Diaspora Program events.
- Consider becoming a Golden Bear Orientation Leader and welcome new students to UC Berkeley.
- Get involved with campus issues as an American Cultures Engaged Scholarship course.
- Enrich your studies with a summer minor.
- Assist faculty in their research through the OURS database.
- Get 1:1 mentoring with APASD listserv.
- Meet with your major college advisor.
- Focus on upper division requirements and plan for electives you wish to take.
- Review your degree progress with your major and college advisors.
- Ask the major advisor about the honors program.
- Attend Asian American and Asian Diaspora Program events.
- Consider becoming a Golden Bear Orientation Leader and welcome new students to UC Berkeley.
- Get involved with campus issues as an American Cultures Engaged Scholarship course.
- Enrich your studies with a summer minor.
- Assist faculty in their research through the OURS database.
- Get 1:1 mentoring with APASD listserv.
- Meet with your major college advisor.
- Focus on upper division requirements and plan for electives you wish to take.
- Review your degree progress with your major and college advisors.
- Ask the major advisor about the honors program.
- Attend Asian American and Asian Diaspora Program events.
- Consider becoming a Golden Bear Orientation Leader and welcome new students to UC Berkeley.
- Get involved with campus issues as an American Cultures Engaged Scholarship course.
- Enrich your studies with a summer minor.
- Assist faculty in their research through the OURS database.
- Get 1:1 mentoring with APASD listserv.
- Meet with your major college advisor.
- Focus on upper division requirements and plan for electives you wish to take.
- Review your degree progress with your major and college advisors.
- Ask the major advisor about the honors program.
- Attend Asian American and Asian Diaspora Program events.
- Consider becoming a Golden Bear Orientation Leader and welcome new students to UC Berkeley.
- Get involved with campus issues as an American Cultures Engaged Scholarship course.
- Enrich your studies with a summer minor.
- Assist faculty in their research through the OURS database.
- Get 1:1 mentoring with APASD listserv.
- Meet with your major college advisor.
- Focus on upper division requirements and plan for electives you wish to take.
- Review your degree progress with your major and college advisors.
- Ask the major advisor about the honors program.
- Attend Asian American and Asian Diaspora Program events.
- Consider becoming a Golden Bear Orientation Leader and welcome new students to UC Berkeley.
- Get involved with campus issues as an American Cultures Engaged Scholarship course.
- Enrich your studies with a summer minor.
- Assist faculty in their research through the OURS database.
- Get 1:1 mentoring with APASD listserv.
- Meet with your major college advisor.
- Focus on upper division requirements and plan for electives you wish to take.
- Review your degree progress with your major and college advisors.
- Ask the major advisor about the honors program.
- Attend Asian American and Asian Diaspora Program events.
- Consider becoming a Golden Bear Orientation Leader and welcome new students to UC Berkeley.
- Get involved with campus issues as an American Cultures Engaged Scholarship course.
- Enrich your studies with a summer minor.
- Assist faculty in their research through the OURS database.
- Get 1:1 mentoring with APASD listserv.
- Meet with your major college advisor.
- Focus on upper division requirements and plan for electives you wish to take.
- Review your degree progress with your major and college advisors.
- Ask the major advisor about the honors program.
- Attend Asian American and Asian Diaspora Program events.
- Consider becoming a Golden Bear Orientation Leader and welcome new students to UC Berkeley.
- Get involved with campus issues as an American Cultures Engaged Scholarship course.
- Enrich your studies with a summer minor.
- Assist faculty in their research through the OURS database.
- Get 1:1 mentoring with APASD listserv.
- Meet with your major college advisor.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR?
Students in the Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies Program gain skills that prepare them for careers in a variety of fields, including teaching, counseling, law, journalism, marketing, community and housing development, radio and television, health and medicine, community and union organizing, social work, and positions in federal, state, and local governments as well as those at the city and county levels.

Jobs and Employers
Director of Community Engagement, Sustainable Economies Law Ctr.
Finance and Operations Manager, National CAMACD
Legal Asst., Weisberg and Miller
Senior Public Affairs Representative, Kaiser Permanente
Operations Coordinator, Nourish Co.
Policy/Comms. Assoc., National Council of Asian Pacific Americans

Graduate Programs
Counseling, Masters
City and Regional Planning, Masters
Data Science, Masters
Education, Masters, PhD
Law, JD
Medicine, MD
Public Administration, Masters
Public Health, Masters
Public Policy, Masters
Social Work, Masters

Examples gathered from the First Destination Survey of recent Berkeley graduates and LinkedIn.

Updated: 04.16.24