



B.A. AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

Each year of this plan includes milestones that support the four pillars of career development — self-discovery, exploration, experience, and action. These milestones are here to guide you, not limit you — your journey may move at a different pace, and that's completely okay.

YEAR 1 | BUILD FOUNDATIONS

- Identify your career goals and take [career & personality assessments](#) to understand your skills, interests, values and strengths
- Check your [major map](#) & verify all first year academic grade requirements
- Examine success/support options like the [Office of Student Advocacy](#)
- Visit [Garnet Gate](#) & the August Student Org Fair to explore and join clubs or orgs for your major
- Attend the [Part-Time Job Fair & All Majors Career & Internship Fair](#) in the fall/spring and other Career Center workshops & presentations
- Apply for [scholarships](#) to support your academic and financial success
- Engage in extracurricular activities and look for summer experiences to network & develop skills 🤝
- Get involved to build on the [eight Career Competencies](#) employers look for
- Visit [What Can I Do With This Major?](#) to see fields and industries you could work in and explore your major online 🤝🌐
- Consider enrolling in [University 201: The World of Work](#)
- Meet with CC to discuss your personal brand, goals & next steps and to develop a customized career plan and resume

YEAR 2 | EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES

- Take a [personality assessment](#) & review your custom personality report 🌐
- Reflect on your experiences and skills to see what areas need more development and to update your resume 🌐
- Consider new experiences, part-time jobs and leadership roles
- Review [course descriptions](#)
- Explore the [Career Center Toolkit](#) for additional career readiness resources
- Attend graduate or professional school events, Career Center workshops & presentations, and [career & internship fairs](#) to learn about different career paths and gain exposure to programs/jobs
- Investigate [Graduation with Leadership Distinction](#) for senior year
- Consider a summer internship and/or participate in [job shadowing](#) 🤝
- Participate in a formal mentoring program through [MentorshipHub](#)
- Connect with former supervisors on [LinkedIn](#) and ask them to write a recommendation for you on the site
- Explore [research](#) and read [news](#) for your major and attend [events](#)
- Consider an [Interdisciplinary Certificate](#)
- Review your personal brand, goals & next steps with a CC or PPA
- Explore companies that hire USC interns & start building your network 🤝🌐
- Conduct Informational Interviews with [alumni](#) & professionals in the field

YEAR 3 | FIND FOCUS

- Review past career assessments to see your top work values and skill sets
- Reflect on your experiences and skills and update your resume
- Assess your campus involvement and seek leadership opportunities through the [Leadership and Service Center](#)
- Connect with [USC alumni on LinkedIn](#) and start a conversation
- Attend panels, workshops and immersion experiences to gain confidence & grow connections
- Secure a summer internship/co-op, [micro-internship](#), [job shadowing](#) or other experiential learning opportunity
- If considering graduate/professional school, prepare for entrance exams, and contact [Pre-Professional & Graduate School Advising](#) for assistance with admission requirements
- Join clubs or professional organizations related to your specific interests
- Maintain or develop relationships with [departmental faculty](#) or past employers who can serve as references for you
- Review your online presence
- Meet with your CC to explore various career options & make a plan

YEAR 4 | PREPARE FOR LAUNCH

- Reflect on & update your profile/professional documents online 🤝
- Meet with a CC or PPA to prepare an approach for your final year
- Research companies and positions you are interested in, and explore career paths, job titles and salaries 🌐
- Verify graduation requirements & make sure you are on track for [GLD](#)
- Investigate graduate school vs. full-time job & confirm your path and timeline for applications
- Join professional associations/organizations and online forums/groups related to your career interests or academic field
- Search & set alerts for jobs of interest 🤝
- Ask your key connections to write letters of support and/or reference
- Apply to graduate/professional school programs and/or employment opportunities
- Engage in interview preparation & practice — create a document with your most relevant experiences and apply the STAR method
- Complete the graduation survey to share your post-grad plans

Legend

CC Career Coach
PPA Pre-Professional Advisor



Handshake
Gamecock GradStats



Career Center

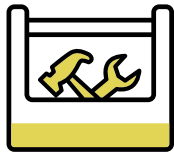
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

sc.edu/career

GAMECOCK GRADSTATS DATA



Curious about what you could make with a B.A. in African American Studies? Check out [Gamecock GradStats](#) for real-time salary information of graduates who majored in African American Studies.



Skills Employers Look for

(in no particular order)

Communication
Customer Service
Data Analysis
Digital Marketing
Leadership
Management
Marketing
Microsoft Excel
Microsoft Office
Organization Skills
Project Management
Public Speaking
Sales
Social Media Management
Social Media Marketing



DON'T FORGET THESE IMPORTANT TASKS!

- Build & update your [Handshake](#) profile.
- Create & update [professional documents](#) (resume, CV, references, etc.).
- [Schedule an appointment](#) with Career Coaches and/or Pre-Professional Advising staff.



DISCOVER EMPLOYERS HIRING YOUR MAJOR

CAREER CENTER TOOLS

Check out the links below and explore all the tools the Career Center has to offer.

CANDID CAREER >>>

Candid Career is our provider for thousands of video informational interviews with industry professionals. You can get real insight on careers, as well as tips to sharpen your the job search.

CAREERSHIFT >>>

CareerShift is an online tool that allows you to search, select and store job listings from all job boards and all company job postings. You can also find up-to-date contact information for millions of companies.

GAMECOCK GRADSTATS >>>

Explore the possibilities! Search & view USC students' post graduation career paths: where they work, skills they use, & how much they earn.

HANDSHAKE >>>

Handshake is the Career Center's online resource for jobs, internships, events and employer connections. Handshake is also where you can find resources and make appointments with a career coach.

INTERSTRIDE >>>

Interstride is a one-stop-shop that empowers you to thrive internationally.

MENTORSHIP HUB >>>

Mentorship Hub is an online platform that connects the USC community. The platform provides career support, career resources, and an opportunity to mentor or seek mentorship.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH THIS MAJOR? >>>

Explore unexpected career possibilities for your degree and see how other students turned their major into amazing careers.

Other Campus Resource Links:

- [Academic Advising](#)
- [Center for Integrative and Experiential Learning](#)
- [Leadership and Service Center](#)
- [Office of Undergraduate Studies](#)
- [Undergraduate Research](#)

The Career Center realizes that every student has a unique journey during their time here at the University of South Carolina. All students move at different paces along different paths. We acknowledge your individual needs and will meet you at whatever stage you are in. This document is meant to serve as a milestones guide to help you plan your future and your goals.