



## Rename the Bachelor of Arts in "African American Studies" to "African American and Africana Studies" (Senate Document #23-24-08)

**PRESENTED BY** Wendy Stickle, Chair, Senate Programs, Curricula, and Courses Committee

**REVIEW DATES** SEC – September 11, 2023 | SENATE – October 3, 2023

**VOTING METHOD** In a single vote

**RELEVANT POLICY/DOCUMENT**

**NECESSARY APPROVALS** Senate, President, USM Chancellor, and the Maryland Higher Education Commission

### ISSUE

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The College of Behavioral and Social Sciences’s Department of African American Studies proposes to change the name of its rename the Bachelor of Arts in "African American Studies" to "African American and Africana Studies". This program name change reflects the research interests within the department, which have shifted significantly over the years and now include major projects situated in Africa and the Diaspora. This name change is also consistent with many peer institutions in the BIG TEN where department names include African (Michigan, Ohio State), African Diaspora (Indiana) or Africana (Rutgers). Other departments are called "Black Studies" to encompass the global perspective on race. During its more than 50 years of existence, the African American Studies Department has focused on providing critical assessments and solutions for contemporary problems facing the African American community. With faculty trained in sociology, psychology, criminology, African American and American Studies, history and philosophy, the coursework now addresses these issues in a global perspective by examining Africa, the African Diaspora, and the interrelations between peoples of African descent. Existing courses and new courses that are being developed focus on Africa and the Diaspora, and reflect the human, cultural, social, political, economic, and historical factors that have created and shaped the “Black” social experience globally. Separate proposals have also been submitted to change the names of the department and the Upper Division Certificate in “African American Studies” to “African American and Africana Studies”.

The proposal was approved by the Senate Programs, Curricula, and Courses committee on September 1, 2023.

### RECOMMENDATION(S)

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The Senate Committee on Programs, Curricula, and Courses recommends that the Senate approve this name change.

### COMMITTEE WORK

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The committee considered this proposal at its meeting on September 1, 2023. Sangeetha Madhavan and Ashley Newby, from the Department of African American Studies, and Katherine Russell, from the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, presented the proposal and answered questions from the committee. The committee approved the proposal.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

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The Senate could decline to approve this new program title.

## **RISKS**

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If the Senate declines to approve this program title change, the current program will not adequately describe the coursework and activities of the program.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

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There are no significant financial implications for program title changes.

# 504: AFRICAN AMERICAN AND AFRICANA STUDIES MAJOR

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## In Workflow

1. D-AASP Curriculum Manager (lahsram9@umd.edu; anewby1@umd.edu)
2. D-AASP PCC Chair (lahsram9@umd.edu; choflet@umd.edu)
3. D-AASP Chair (lahsram9@umd.edu; smadhava@umd.edu)
4. BSOS Curriculum Manager (khal@umd.edu; gdenbow@umd.edu)
5. BSOS PCC Chair (khal@umd.edu)
6. BSOS Dean (khal@umd.edu; krussell@umd.edu; jmcgloin@umd.edu)
7. Academic Affairs Curriculum Manager (mcolson@umd.edu)
8. Senate PCC Chair (mcolson@umd.edu; wstickle@umd.edu)
9. University Senate Chair (mcolson@umd.edu)
10. President (mcolson@umd.edu)
11. Chancellor (mcolson@umd.edu)
12. MHEC (mcolson@umd.edu)
13. Provost Office (mcolson@umd.edu)
14. Undergraduate Catalog Manager (lyokoi@umd.edu; acruz130@umd.edu)

## Approval Path

1. Fri, 11 Aug 2023 18:01:48 GMT  
Ashley Newby (anewby1): Approved for D-AASP Curriculum Manager
2. Wed, 16 Aug 2023 16:19:27 GMT  
Marshal Washington (lahsram9): Approved for D-AASP PCC Chair
3. Wed, 16 Aug 2023 16:37:44 GMT  
Sangeetha Madhavan (smadhava): Approved for D-AASP Chair
4. Wed, 16 Aug 2023 16:49:54 GMT  
Kristi Hall (khal): Approved for BSOS Curriculum Manager
5. Wed, 16 Aug 2023 18:13:23 GMT  
Kristi Hall (khal): Approved for BSOS PCC Chair
6. Wed, 16 Aug 2023 18:22:19 GMT  
Katherine Russell (krussell): Approved for BSOS Dean
7. Fri, 25 Aug 2023 19:15:43 GMT  
Michael Colson (mcolson): Approved for Academic Affairs Curriculum Manager
8. Fri, 01 Sep 2023 16:11:47 GMT  
Wendy Stickle (wstickle): Approved for Senate PCC Chair

## History

1. Aug 4, 2019 by clmig-jwehrheim
2. Oct 14, 2019 by William Bryan (wbryan)

Date Submitted: Fri, 11 Aug 2023 17:28:50 GMT

**Viewing: 504 : African American and Africana Studies Major**

**Last approved: Mon, 14 Oct 2019 16:02:53 GMT**

**Last edit: Thu, 17 Aug 2023 17:52:57 GMT**

Changes proposed by: Ashley Newby (anewby1)

### Proposed Action

Rename Program

### Program Name

African American and Africana Studies Major

### Program Status

Active

**Effective Term**

Fall 2024

**Catalog Year**

2024-2025

**Program Level**

Undergraduate Program

**Program Type**

Undergraduate Major

**Delivery Method**

On Campus

**Departments**

**Department**

African American Studies

**Colleges**

**College**

Behavioral and Social Sciences

**Program/Major Code**

22110, 2211P

**MHEC Inventory Program**

African American Studies

**CIP Code**

050201 - African-American/Black Studies.

**HEGIS**

221100

**Degree(s) Awarded**

**Degree Awarded**

Bachelor of Arts

**Proposal Contact**

Ashley Newby

**Proposal Summary**

(PCC Log Number 23030)

## Program and Catalog Information

**Provide the catalog description of the proposed program. As part of the description, please indicate any areas of concentration or specializations that will be offered.**

The African American Studies Department offers a Bachelor of Arts in African-American Studies or a Bachelor of Arts in African-American Studies with a concentration in Public Policy. All students will take three foundation courses, two methods courses and one of three capstone options. Students choosing the African-American Studies major take five courses in two thematic areas (or clusters): 1) Cultural and Historical Analysis and 2) Civic Engagement and Social Justice. Students choosing the major will take courses that emphasize understanding historical and cultural context, developing problem-solving and critical thinking skills and fostering the capacity to effect change locally, nationally and globally. Courses cover a wide range of topics, including history, literature, health and well-being, family, politics, criminal justice, gender and race, and incorporate both the African-American and African Diasporic experience.

Students who choose the Public Policy Concentration must take six courses in our Public Policy sequence. The Public Policy concentration offers an emphasis on problem-solving, analytical decision-making, and practical applications of policy analysis and management skills. Courses in public

policy cover a range of policy areas, including health, criminal justice, reproduction and education, and also address the institutions and processes involved in policy-making. Students have the opportunity to pursue a Joint BA/MPP degree.

#### Catalog Program Requirements:

Students must earn a grade of "C-" or better in each course that is to be counted toward completion of degree requirements. Students must have a minimum 2.0 cumulative grade point average across all courses used to satisfy major degree requirements. All related or supporting courses in other departments must be approved by an AASP academic advisor. Each semester there will be an approved list of courses for both those choosing the major or the concentration in Public Policy. The academic advisor will review the student's options during their mandatory advising appointment.

African-American Studies Major: 35 Total Credits

Public Policy Concentration: 38 Total Credits

Course	Title	Credits
College Requirements ( <a href="https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/behavioral-social-sciences/#collegerequirementstext">https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/behavioral-social-sciences/#collegerequirementstext</a> )		
<b>Foundation Courses Required for All Majors</b>		
AASP100	Introduction to African American Studies	3
AASP200	African Civilization	3
AASP101 or AASP202	Public Policy and the Black Community <sup>1</sup> Black Culture in the United States	3
<b>Methods</b>		
AASP210	Intro to Research Design and Analysis in African American Studies	3
AASP399	Research in African-American Studies (Research Practicum) <sup>2</sup>	2
Select One:		3
AASP395	Fundamentals of Quantitative Research in Socio-Cultural Perspective <sup>1</sup>	
AASP390	Course AASP390 Not Found (Advanced Qualitative Methods)	
<b>Capstone (Choose One)</b>		<b>3</b>
AASP397	Senior Thesis	
AASP4XX	Course AASP4XX Not Found (Study Abroad in Africa or the African Diaspora)	
AASP4XX	Course AASP4XX Not Found (Capstone Seminar and Community Practicum)	
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>20</b>

<sup>1</sup> Required for Public Policy Concentration Students

<sup>2</sup> Research Practicum is taken for 1 credit per semester.

## African-American Studies Major

Course	Title	Credits
<b>Five courses at the 300 or 400 level are required. There must be at least one course in Cluster 1 and one in Cluster 2</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Cluster 1</b>		
AASP321	Course AASP321 Not Found (Gender, Race and Health)	
AASP340	Course AASP340 Not Found (Black Children and Youth)	
AASP341	Course AASP341 Not Found (Diversity in Black Family Life)	
AASP342	Course AASP342 Not Found (Racial Socialization of Children)	
AASP420	Course AASP420 Not Found (The Role of Place in Racial/Ethnic Health Disparities)	
AASP430	Course AASP430 Not Found (Structural Violence and Medical Apartheid in Black Communities)	
AASP432	Course AASP432 Not Found (Race, Reproduction and Population Policy: An International Perspective)	
AASP442	Course AASP442 Not Found (Race, Poverty and Transition to Adulthood)	
AASP445	Course AASP445 Not Found (Reducing Black White Achievement Gaps)	
AASP4XX	Course AASP4XX Not Found (Black Men, Popular Culture and Disability)	
<b>Cluster 2</b>		
AASP361	Caribbean Women (Intro to Pan-Africanism)	
AASP362	Course AASP362 Not Found (African Contributions to History)	
AASP370	Course AASP370 Not Found (Africa in World Politics)	
AASP371	Black Feminist Thought (Comparative Racial Politics)	
AASP380	Course AASP380 Not Found (The Commodification and Economics of the Prison Industrial Complex)	

AASP460	Course AASP460 Not Found (Black Women's Political and Cultural Engagements/Representations of Africa and the Global Diaspora)	
AASP462	Course AASP462 Not Found (Social Inequality and Social Policy in a Global Perspective)	
AASP480	Course AASP480 Not Found (Race, GIS and Social Inequalities)	
AASP481	Course AASP481 Not Found (Negroes with Guns)	
AASP492	Course AASP492 Not Found (African Americans and Public Policy)	
AASP4XX	Course AASP4XX Not Found (The History of Conservative Black Politics)	
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>15</b>

## Public Policy Concentration

Course	Title	Credits
<b>Analytic Component</b>		
AASP301	Applied Policy Analysis and the Black Community	3
ECON200	Principles of Microeconomics	3
PLCY388	Special Topics in Public Policy	3
or PLCY401	Contemporary Issues in Public Policy	
AASP Policy Electives in African American Studies		9
AASP398	Selected Topics in the African Diaspora	
AASP411	Black Resistance Movements	
AASP441	Science, Technology, and the Black Community	
AASP443	Blacks and the Law	
AASP498	Special Topics in Black Culture	
AASP499	Advanced Topics in Public Policy and the Black Community	
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>18</b>

List the intended student learning outcomes. In an attachment, provide the plan for assessing these outcomes.

### Learning Outcomes

Describe the social and historical context of the issues in African American and African Diaspora communities related to health and well-being, family functioning, economic development, political participation and contemporary culture.

Explain the dynamic interplay between social oppression and resistance in African-American Communities and the African Diaspora

Identify critical events and historical periods and analyze their implications for politics, economics, health and psychological functioning in African American and African diaspora communities.

Use social science methods and data to analyze social problems and propose solution.

Evaluate the validity of claims and conclusions in secular and scientific publications.

Identify, compute, and interpret common methods for analyzing quantitative data.

Write clearly and speak persuasively.

## Program Modification Information

**Impact on current students. It should be specifically acknowledged that students enrolled in the program prior to the effective date of any curriculum change may complete their program under the old requirements if they wish. The courses required must remain available, or suitable substitutions specifically designated.**

The renaming of the program will not affect current students, as the program requirements are not changing.

## Linked Programs

### Renaming Program

**Provide a rationale for renaming the program.**

The renaming of the major is in alignment with the renaming of the department. The future of African American studies as a field requires the critical assessment and inclusion of the challenges faced by people who share the "racial marker" in the global world of the 21st century. To reflect this shift, we propose a modification of the name of the department from African American Studies (AFAM) to African American and Africana Studies (AAAS). This change is consistent with three important trends. First, the faculty and the research interests of the department have shifted significantly over the years and now includes major research projects situated in Africa and the Diaspora. Second, the undergraduate student body at UMD has

changed over the past decade and now has a much higher proportion of first generation or second-generation students from Africa, the Caribbean and elsewhere. Third, it is consistent with many of our peer institutions in the BIG TEN where department names include African (Univ. of Michigan, Ohio State), African Diaspora (Indiana) or Africana (Rutgers). Other departments are called "Black Studies" to encompass the global perspective on race. Indeed, intellectual luminaries such as W.E.B. DuBois and icons of the Civil Rights movement including Dr. King and Malcolm X recognized the importance of global connections.

During its more than 50 years of existence, the African American Studies Department at the University of Maryland College Park has focused on providing critical assessments and solutions for contemporary problems facing the African American community. With faculty trained in sociology, psychology, criminology, African American and American Studies, history and philosophy, our department is well positioned to address these issues in a global perspective by examining Africa, the African Diaspora, and the interrelations between peoples of African descent. The name change we are proposing makes visible our main goal - to develop an interdisciplinary vocabulary and method for the study of the interconnections between North America, Africa and the African Diaspora in order to understand similarities and differences in life chances for individuals and communities of "African" descent. While we will of course continue our focus on African American communities, our students will benefit through exposure to global contexts which, in turn, should serve them well on the job market. Indeed, the name change signifies both our continued commitment to the betterment of African American lives and the strengthening of our relevance to the global landscape paying particular attention to diversity within and across groups. Moreover, retaining "African American" in the name ensures continuity of identity for our alumni who comprise a critical constituent. Through the modification of existing courses in the Social/Cultural and Policy tracks and the development of new courses on Africa and the diaspora, we propose to transform the department so that human, cultural, social, political, economic, and historical factors that have created and shaped the "Black" social experience globally, is critically examined through qualitative and quantitative analysis.

The proposed name change is also timely in light of the Anti-Black Racism Initiative (ABRI) and, in particular, the new ABRI minor, which will be housed in our department, and the incorporation of the new Diversity, Equity and Inclusion learning outcomes given the attention to Black diversity in the US and globally.

## Supporting Documents

### Attachments

AASD to AAAS Name Changes Proposal 08042023.pdf

Next Steps for AASD to AAAS Proposed Changes (2023-2024).docx

Key: 504

# Program Change Request

Date Submitted: 08/11/23 1:28 pm

Viewing: **504 : African American and Africana Studies Major**

Last approved: 10/14/19 12:02 pm

Last edit: 08/17/23 1:52 pm

Changes proposed by: Ashley Newby (anewby1)

Catalog Pages Using this Program

[African American Studies Major](#)

Proposed Action [Rename Program](#)

Program Name

## In Workflow

1. D-AASP Curriculum Manager
2. D-AASP PCC Chair
3. D-AASP Chair
4. BSOS Curriculum Manager
5. BSOS PCC Chair
6. BSOS Dean
7. Academic Affairs Curriculum Manager
8. Senate PCC Chair
9. University Senate Chair
10. President
11. Chancellor
12. MHEC
13. Provost Office
14. Undergraduate Catalog Manager

## Approval Path

1. 08/11/23 2:01 pm  
Ashley Newby (anewby1):  
Approved for  
D-AASP Curriculum Manager
2. 08/16/23 12:19 pm  
Marshal Washington (lahsram9):  
Approved for  
D-AASP PCC Chair
3. 08/16/23 12:37 pm



Sangeetha

Madhavan

(smadhava):

Approved for

D-AASP Chair

4. 08/16/23 12:49 pm

Kristi Hall (khall):

Approved for BSOS

Curriculum

Manager

5. 08/16/23 2:13 pm

Kristi Hall (khall):

Approved for BSOS

PCC Chair

6. 08/16/23 2:22 pm

Katherine Russell

(krussell): Approved

for BSOS Dean

7. 08/25/23 3:15 pm

Michael Colson

(mcolson):

Approved for

Academic Affairs

Curriculum

Manager

8. 09/01/23 12:11 pm

Wendy Stickle

(wstickle): Approved

for Senate PCC Chair

## History

1. Aug 4, 2019 by  
clmig-jwehrheim
2. Oct 14, 2019 by  
William Bryan  
(wbryan)

African American and Africana Studies Major

Program Status      Active

Effective Term      Fall 2024

Catalog Year      [2024-2025](#)

Program Level      Undergraduate Program

Program Type      Undergraduate Major

Delivery Method    On Campus

Departments

Department
African American Studies

Colleges

College
Behavioral and Social Sciences

Program/Major Code      22110, 2211P

MHEC Inventory Program      African American Studies

CIP Code      050201 - African-American/Black Studies.

HEGIS      221100

MHEC Recognized Area(s) of Concentration

Degree(s) Awarded

Degree Awarded
Bachelor of Arts

If other, new degree award:

Proposal Contact

[Ashley Newby](#)

Proposal Summary

[\(PCC Log Number 23030\)](#)

## Program and Catalog Information

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Provide the catalog description of the proposed program. As part of the description, please indicate any areas of concentration or specializations that will be offered.

The African American Studies Department offers a Bachelor of Arts in African-American Studies or a Bachelor of Arts in African-American Studies with a concentration in Public Policy. All students will take three foundation courses, two methods courses and one of three capstone options. Students choosing the African-American Studies major take five courses in two thematic areas (or clusters): 1) Cultural and Historical Analysis and 2) Civic Engagement and Social Justice. Students choosing the major will take courses that emphasize understanding historical and cultural context, developing problem-solving and critical thinking skills and fostering the capacity to effect change locally, nationally and globally. Courses cover a wide range of topics, including history, literature, health and well-being, family, politics, criminal justice, gender and race, and incorporate both the African-American and African Diasporic experience.

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#### Catalog Program Requirements:

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African-American Studies Major: 35 Total Credits

Public Policy Concentration: 38 Total Credits

Course	Title	Credits
<u>College Requirements</u>		
Foundation Courses Required for All Majors		
<u>AASP100</u>	Introduction to African American Studies	3
<u>AASP200</u>	African Civilization	3
<u>AASP101</u>	Public Policy and the Black Community <sup>1</sup>	3
or <u>AASP202</u>	Black Culture in the United States	
Methods		
<u>AASP210</u>	Intro to Research Design and Analysis in African American Studies	3
<u>AASP399</u>	Research in African-American Studies (Research Practicum) <sup>2</sup>	2
Select One:		3
<u>AASP395</u>	Fundamentals of Quantitative Research in Socio-Cultural Perspective <sup>1</sup>	

Course	Title	Credits
<a href="#">AASP390</a>	<a href="#">Course AASP390 Not Found</a> (Advanced Qualitative Methods)	
Capstone (Choose One)		3
<a href="#">AASP397</a>	Senior Thesis	
<a href="#">AASP4XX</a>	<a href="#">Course AASP4XX Not Found</a> (Study Abroad in Africa or the African Diaspora)	
<a href="#">AASP4XX</a>	<a href="#">Course AASP4XX Not Found</a> (Capstone Seminar and Community Practicum)	
Total Credits		20

1

Required for Public Policy Concentration Students

2

Research Practicum is taken for 1 credit per semester.

## African-American Studies Major

Course	Title	Credits
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Five courses at the 300 or 400 level are required. There must be at least one course in Cluster 1 and one in 15

Cluster 2

Cluster 1

<a href="#">AASP321</a>	<a href="#">Course AASP321 Not Found</a> (Gender, Race and Health)
<a href="#">AASP340</a>	<a href="#">Course AASP340 Not Found</a> (Black Children and Youth)
<a href="#">AASP341</a>	<a href="#">Course AASP341 Not Found</a> (Diversity in Black Family Life)
<a href="#">AASP342</a>	<a href="#">Course AASP342 Not Found</a> (Racial Socialization of Children)
<a href="#">AASP420</a>	<a href="#">Course AASP420 Not Found</a> (The Role of Place in Racial/Ethnic Health Disparities)
<a href="#">AASP430</a>	<a href="#">Course AASP430 Not Found</a> (Structural Violence and Medical Apartheid in Black

Communities)

<a href="#">AASP432</a>	<a href="#">Course AASP432 Not Found</a> (Race, Reproduction and Population Policy: An International Perspective)
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<a href="#">AASP442</a>	<a href="#">Course AASP442 Not Found</a> (Race, Poverty and Transition to Adulthood)
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<a href="#">AASP445</a>	<a href="#">Course AASP445 Not Found</a> (Reducing Black White Achievement Gaps)
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<a href="#">AASP4XX</a>	<a href="#">Course AASP4XX Not Found</a> (Black Men, Popular Culture and Disability)
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Cluster 2

[AASP361](#) Caribbean Women (Intro to Pan-Africanism)

<a href="#">AASP362</a>	<a href="#">Course AASP362 Not Found</a> (African Contributions to History)
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<a href="#">AASP370</a>	<a href="#">Course AASP370 Not Found</a> (Africa in World Politics)
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[AASP371](#) Black Feminist Thought (Comparative Racial Politics)

<a href="#">AASP380</a>	<a href="#">Course AASP380 Not Found</a> (The Commodification and Economics of the Prison Industrial Complex)
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<a href="#">AASP460</a>	<a href="#">Course AASP460 Not Found</a> (Black Women's Political and Cultural Engagements/Representations of Africa and the Global Diaspora)
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<a href="#">AASP462</a>	<a href="#">Course AASP462 Not Found</a> (Social Inequality and Social Policy in a Global Perspective)
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<a href="#">AASP480</a>	<a href="#">Course AASP480 Not Found</a> (Race, GIS and Social Inequalities)
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Course	Title	Credits
<a href="#">AASP481</a>	Course AASP481 Not Found (Negroes with Guns)	
<a href="#">AASP492</a>	Course AASP492 Not Found (African Americans and Public Policy)	
<a href="#">AASP4XX</a>	Course AASP4XX Not Found (The History of Conservative Black Politics)	
Total Credits		15

## Public Policy Concentration

Course	Title	Credits
Analytic Component		
<a href="#">AASP301</a>	Applied Policy Analysis and the Black Community	3
<a href="#">ECON200</a>	Principles of Microeconomics	3
<a href="#">PLCY388</a>	Special Topics in Public Policy	3
or <a href="#">PLCY401</a>	Contemporary Issues in Public Policy	
AASP Policy Electives in African American Studies		9
<a href="#">AASP398</a>	Selected Topics in the African Diaspora	
<a href="#">AASP411</a>	Black Resistance Movements	
<a href="#">AASP441</a>	Science, Technology, and the Black Community	
<a href="#">AASP443</a>	Blacks and the Law	
<a href="#">AASP498</a>	Special Topics in Black Culture	
<a href="#">AASP499</a>	Advanced Topics in Public Policy and the Black Community	
Total Credits		18

Sample plan. Provide a term by term sample plan that shows how a hypothetical student would progress through the program to completion. It should be clear the length of time it will take for a typical student to graduate. For undergraduate programs, this should be the four-year plan.

List the intended student learning outcomes. In an attachment, provide the plan for assessing these outcomes.

### Learning Outcomes

- Describe the social and historical context of the issues in African American and African Diaspora communities related to health and well-being, family functioning, economic development, political participation and contemporary culture.
- Explain the dynamic interplay between social oppression and resistance in African-American Communities and the African Diaspora
- Identify critical events and historical periods and analyze their implications for politics, economics, health and psychological functioning in African American and African diaspora communities.
- Use social science methods and data to analyze social problems and propose solution.

### Learning Outcomes

Evaluate the validity of claims and conclusions in secular and scientific publications.

Identify, compute, and interpret common methods for analyzing quantitative data.

Write clearly and speak persuasively.

## Program Modification Information

---

Impact on current students. It should be specifically acknowledged that students enrolled in the program prior to the effective date of any curriculum change may complete their program under the old requirements if they wish. The courses required must remain available, or suitable substitutions specifically designated.

The renaming of the program will not affect current students, as the program requirements are not changing.

### Linked Programs

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Indicate in the space below all programs to which this program is formally linked (e.g., approved combined bachelor's/master's programs, dual master's programs, or joint-programs with other universities). If the proposed modification will affect the linked program, provide as an attachment the new curriculum for each arrangement and provide supporting correspondence from the director of the linked program.

### Renaming Program

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Provide a rationale for renaming the program.

The renaming of the major is in alignment with the renaming of the department. The future of African American studies as a field requires the critical assessment and inclusion of the challenges faced by people who share the “racial marker” in the global world of the 21st century. To reflect this shift, we propose a modification of the name of the department from African American Studies (AFAM) to African American and Africana Studies (AAAS). This change is consistent with three important trends. First, the faculty and the research interests of the department have shifted significantly over the years and now includes major research projects situated in Africa and the Diaspora. Second, the undergraduate student body at UMD has changed over the past decade and now has a much higher proportion of first generation or second-generation students from Africa, the Caribbean and elsewhere. Third, it is consistent with many of our peer institutions in the BIG TEN where department names include African (Univ. of Michigan, Ohio State), African Diaspora (Indiana) or Africana (Rutgers). Other departments are called “Black Studies” to encompass the global perspective on race. Indeed, intellectual luminaries such as W.E.B. DuBois and icons of the Civil Rights movement including Dr. King and Malcolm X recognized the importance of global connections.

During its more than 50 years of existence, the African American Studies Department at the University of Maryland College Park has focused on providing critical assessments and solutions for contemporary problems facing the African American community. With faculty trained in sociology, psychology, criminology, African American and American Studies, history and philosophy, our department is well positioned to address these issues in a global perspective by examining Africa, the African Diaspora, and the interrelations between peoples of African descent. The name change we are proposing makes visible our main goal - to develop an interdisciplinary vocabulary and method for the study of the interconnections between North America, Africa and the African Diaspora in order to understand similarities and differences in life chances for individuals and communities of “African” descent. While we will of course continue our focus on African American communities, our students will benefit through exposure to global contexts which, in turn, should serve them well on the job market. Indeed, the name change signifies both our continued commitment to the betterment of African American lives and the strengthening of our relevance to the global landscape paying particular attention to diversity within and across groups. Moreover, retaining “African American” in the name ensures continuity of identity for our alumni who comprise a critical constituent. Through the modification of existing courses in the Social/Cultural and Policy tracks and the development of new courses on Africa and the diaspora, we propose to transform the department so that human, cultural, social, political, economic, and historical factors that have created and shaped the “Black” social experience globally, is critically examined through qualitative and quantitative analysis.

The proposed name change is also timely in light of the Anti-Black Racism Initiative (ABRI) and,

in particular, the new ABRI minor, which will be housed in our department, and the incorporation of the new Diversity, Equity and Inclusion learning outcomes given the attention to Black diversity in the US and globally.

### Supporting Documents

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#### Attachments

[AASD to AAAS Name Changes Proposal 08042023.pdf](#)

[Next Steps for AASD to AAAS Proposed Changes \(2023-2024\).docx](#)

#### Administrative Documents

#### Reviewer

#### Comments

Key: 504

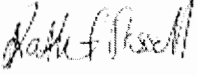




UNIVERSITY OF  
**MARYLAND**  
COLLEGE OF BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES  
*Office of the Associate Dean*

2141 Tydings Hall  
College Park, Maryland 20742  
301.405.1692 TEL  
www.bsosundergrad.umd.edu

To: Wendy Stickle  
Chair, 2023-2024 University Senate PCC Committee

From: Katherine Ford Russell   
Associate Dean, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences

RE: Proposed Department Name Change & Course Prefix Change

Date: August 4, 2023

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Attached please find a PCC proposal from the Department of African American Studies (128301) in the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences (28) at University of Maryland.

I am requesting that the University Senate PCC Committee consider only the following two changes in the proposal at this time.

- Change the name of the Department from African American Studies to the **Department of African American and Africana Studies**.
- Change the course prefix from AASP to **AAAS**.

The other three changes described in the attached proposal (change the title of the major, change the title of the certificate, and change the certificate curriculum) will be routed through the appropriate online workflows for separate consideration by the University Senate PCC and VPAC Committees.

Please feel free to be in touch with me or with the BSOS PCC Chair, Kristi Hall, should you have any questions or concerns.

CC: Susan Rivera, Dean, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences  
Kristi Hall, Associate Director & BSOS College PCC Chair  
Mike Colson, Senior Coordinator for Academic Programs, Office of the Provost

**University of Maryland  
PCC Proposal**

**PCC Log No: 23024**

**Program:** African American Studies 128301

**Department/Unit:** African American Studies Department

**College/School:** BSOS 28

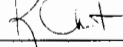

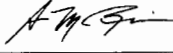
**Proposal Contact Person (with email):** Ashley Newby, anewby1@umd.edu

**Type of Action (check one):**

- Change to Unit, Department, or College
- Other:

Please see BSOS memo 08.04.2023. Proposed changes below to be considered at this time include (1) change department name and (4) change course prefix. Proposed changes 2, 3, and 5 will be routed separately via campus online workflow.

**Approval Signatures** - Please print name, sign, and date. For proposals requiring multiple unit approvals, please use additional cover sheet(s). Digital signatures may be used.

1. Department Committee Chair Dr. Robert Choflet 3/10/2023 
2. Department Chair Dr. Sangeetha Madhavan 3/10/2023 
3. College/School PCC Chair Kristi Hall Aug 5, 2023
4. Dean Katherine Russell Aug 4, 2023  Aug 5, 2023
5. Dean of the Graduate School (if required) \_\_\_\_\_
6. Chair, Senate PCC \_\_\_\_\_
7. University Senate Chair (if required) \_\_\_\_\_
8. Senior Vice President and Provost \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions:**  
When approved by the dean of the college or school, please email the proposal to [pcc-submissions@umd.edu](mailto:pcc-submissions@umd.edu).

**Summary of Proposed Action (use additional sheet if necessary):**

**Unit Code(s)** (to be entered by the Office of Academic Planning and Programs):

### **Changes Proposed:**

1. Change the name of the department from “African American Studies” to “African American and Africana Studies”
2. Change the title of the undergraduate major from “African American Studies” to “African American and Africana Studies”
3. Change the title of the undergraduate certificate from “African American Studies” to “African American and Africana Studies”
4. Change course prefix from AASP to AAAS
5. Modify undergraduate certificate to offer more flexibility for completion.

### **Summary of Proposed Action:**

#### ***Name Change:***

The future of African American studies as a field requires the critical assessment and inclusion of the challenges faced by people who share the “racial marker” in the global world of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. To reflect this shift, we propose a modification of the name of the department from African American Studies (AFAM) to African American and Africana Studies (AAAS). This change is consistent with three important trends. First, the faculty and the research interests of the department have shifted significantly over the years and now includes major research projects situated in Africa and the Diaspora. Second, the undergraduate student body at UMD has changed over the past decade and now has a much higher proportion of first generation or second-generation students from Africa, the Caribbean and elsewhere. Third, it is consistent with many of our peer institutions in the BIG TEN where department names include African (Univ. of Michigan, Ohio State), African Diaspora (Indiana) or Africana (Rutgers). Other departments are called “Black Studies” to encompass the global perspective on race. Indeed, intellectual luminaries such as W.E.B. DuBois and icons of the Civil Rights movement including Dr. King and Malcolm X recognized the importance of global connections.

During its more than 50 years of existence, the African American Studies Department at the University of Maryland College Park has focused on providing critical assessments and solutions for contemporary problems facing the African American community. With faculty trained in sociology, psychology, criminology, African American and American Studies, history and philosophy, our department is well positioned to address these issues in a global perspective by examining Africa, the African Diaspora, and the interrelations between peoples of African descent. The name change we are proposing makes visible our main goal - to develop an interdisciplinary vocabulary and method for the study of the interconnections between North America, Africa and the African Diaspora in order to understand similarities and differences in life chances for individuals and communities of “African” descent. While we will of course continue our focus on African American communities, our students will benefit through exposure to global contexts which, in turn, should serve them well on the job market. Indeed, the name change signifies both our continued commitment to the betterment of African American lives and the strengthening of our relevance to the global landscape paying particular attention to diversity within and across groups. Moreover, retaining “African American” in the name ensures continuity of identity for our alumni who comprise a critical constituent. Through the modification of existing courses in the Social/Cultural and Policy tracks and the development of new courses on Africa and the diaspora,

we propose to transform the department so that human, cultural, social, political, economic, and historical factors that have created and shaped the “Black” social experience globally, is critically examined through qualitative and quantitative analysis.

The proposed name change is also timely in light of the Anti-Black Racism Initiative (ABRI) and, in particular, the new ABRI minor, which will be housed in our department, and the incorporation of the new Diversity, Equity and Inclusion learning outcomes given the attention to Black diversity in the US and globally.

Process

The “name modification” issue has been discussed at multiple faculty retreats over several years and faculty have thoroughly considered the benefits and possible downsides. Through these discussions, we narrowed the options to “African American and Africana” and “Black Studies.” It should be noted that, in recognition of faculty in the History Department whose specialty is African history, we are using *Africana* instead of African Studies. We also confirmed that no other USM campus has a similar name (University of Maryland Baltimore comes closest with “Department of Africana Studies”).

The department held a formal (anonymous) vote on October 5, 2022, including all TTK and PTK faculty, staff and the leadership of the Judge Alexander Williams Jr. Center (JAWC), housed in our department. The ballot offered three options: African American and Africana Studies, Black Studies, and No Change. The results were as follows:

- Department of African American and Africana Studies – 12
- Department of Black Studies – 5
- No change – 1.

***Modifications to Certificate***

Title of the Certificate:

Certificate in African American and Africana Studies

Start Term for Certificate (modified):

Fall 2023

**Table: Structure - Segments and Program Requirements**

<b>Segments</b>	<b>Current Requirements</b>	<b>Proposed Changes</b>
1. Required Foundation Courses   9 credits	AASP100	<b><i>AASP 100 or AASP200</i></b>
	AASP 101	<b><i>AASP 101 or AASP202</i></b>
	AASP200 or AASP202	<b><i>AASP GenEd of Choice</i></b>

2. AASP Upper-Level* Elective Courses   9 credits  (*300 or 400-Level)	AASP Course of Choice 1	AASP Course of Choice 1
	AASP Course of Choice 1	AASP Course of Choice 1
	AASP Course of Choice 1	AASP Course of Choice 1
3. AASP Seminar Course   3 credits	AASP400 or AASP402	<i>Optional Capstone - Approved AASP 400-level course, Education Abroad experience, UTA, etc.</i>

Current Catalog Description for Certificate:

The Certificate in African American Studies offers undergraduate students an excellent opportunity to develop a specialization in African-American issues while pursuing a major in another field. Certificate students learn about the social, economic, political and cultural history of the African-American people through a concentration of courses they plan with the AASP Academic Advisor. Courses taken toward the certificate also may be used to satisfy General Education requirements and electives. Earning a Certificate in African American Studies gives students a competitive advantage in the job market by adding greater focus to their undergraduate experience.

Rationale for Modifications:

Currently, the Department of African American Studies (AASP) has five undergraduate programs: a B.A. in African American Studies and a B.A. with a Concentration in Public Policy (track), the Certificate in African American Studies, the Minor in African Studies, and the Minor in Black Women's Studies, jointly offered by the Harriet Tubman Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

New Description:

*The Certificate in African American and Africana Studies is ideal for students who want to incorporate critical Black studies with their elected major in other departments, schools, or academic programs. Certificate students receive the same interdisciplinary approach used in examining the socio-economic, historical, political, and cultural contributions of people of African descent as the major program. They are encouraged to design their own emphasis area with flexible lower-level requirements and upper-level elective courses. Students interested in a more comprehensive program may consider a track within the major.*

Five proposed changes to the certificate are designed to enhance the efficiency of students' ability to complete the certificate program by expanding their flexibility to use multiple AASP courses including GenEd, cross-listed, and approved course offerings to complete certain program requirements. In addition, the number of credits required will be reduced to 18 credits, making 21 credits (capstone options) optional.

Modification 1:

Required Foundation Courses - Segment 1, Course 1 (3 credits): The current certificate requires students to take AASP100, "Introduction to African American Studies." Our revision will add AASP200, "African Civilization", as an option. The addition of AASP200 in this area provides students with an opportunity to think about the focus of their emphasis area, whether the student is interested in courses that are more U.S. based, or global in context. Both courses serve as a foundation for most upper-level courses.

Modification 2:

Required Foundation Courses - Segment 1, Course 2 (3 credits): The current certificate requires students to take AASP101, "Public Policy and the Black Community." Our revision will add AASP202, "Black Culture in the United States", as an option in this area to align certificate requirements more closely with requirements in the major program.

Modification 3:

Required Foundation Courses - Segment 1, Course 3 (3 credits): The current course requirement allows students to select AASP200 or AASP202. The modification in this area will allow students to draw from a more expansive and flexible list of lower-level GenEd courses, including AASP I-Series and cross-listed courses. Students could also select courses not taken as courses 1 or 2 in this segment. And some students may elect to take courses cross-listed from their primary department with AASD to create a path for their emphasis area within the certificate program.

Modification 4:

AASP Seminar Course - Segment 3 (3 credits): The current course requirement allows students to select AASP400, "Directed Readings in African American Studies", or AASP402, "Classic Readings in African American Studies", as a seminar "capstone course" for the program. The modification would eliminate the requirement of a seminar course reducing the total number of credits for the certificate from 21 to 18 credits. In recent years it has been challenging to offer either course for various reasons. We have tried to offer AASP400, the only upper-level GenEd course in the department (with an honors section), however, the scheduling has been infrequent and we've had to approve other AASP 400-level courses in order for students to complete the requirement.

Modification 5:

Optional Capstone - Segment 3 (3 credits minimum): The modification would propose that a capstone for the program would be optional and would expand to include experiential learning with an approved internship, faculty mentoring in a research practicum, an approved Education Abroad experience, a teaching assistantship in an AASP course, or an approved 400-level AASP "seminar" course. This option may be attractive to students who would like to demonstrate a mastery of the discipline within the certificate program while gaining tangible skills and valuable experiences.

Capstone Options:

- AASP386: Experiential Learning in African American Studies, or BSOS355: Social Sciences Internship Practicum (Summer)
- AASP479: Special Research in African American Studies

- TLTC333: Fundamentals of Academic Peer Mentoring & TLTC399: Independent Study in Academic Peer Mentoring
- Education Abroad, an approved experience in the African diaspora
- Seminar, approved AASP 400-level courses, including AASP400 or AASP402 (when offered)

Further, to help students navigate the eligible courses that will count for their elective and optional capstone requirements, each semester in advance of pre-registration, the Academic Advisor will circulate a list of courses that will meet the requirements of the Certificate with suggested emphasis areas.

These proposed changes increase flexibility, thereby aiding in completion of the program. They facilitate the integration of African studies and African diaspora studies into the Certificate, expand on opportunities to utilize more AASD GenEd courses, and continue to draw on the existing expertise that resides in the department and with affiliate faculty, thereby reflecting the interdisciplinary strength of Black studies across campus.

The department voted unanimously (11 for, 0 against) for modifications for the certificate on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. The vote included TTK and PTK faculty, staff and the leadership of the Judge Alexander Williams Jr. Center (JAWC), housed in our department.

**African American Studies Department  
Proposed Naming & Curriculum Changes 2023-2024**

**Summary Table for Administrative Action Steps  
August 1, 2023**

Action steps:

1. Step 1A. Katherine writes a cover sheet to append to the departmental name change submitted on April 5 (paper process). The College PCC Chair and Dean sign the PDF cover page.
2. This sheet is both emailed to Mike along with the original document and attached to all following CIM proposals.
3. Steps 1B-C. AASD will complete the academic name changes for the major and the UG certificate (CIM).
4. The department will bundle all 3 name change actions into one senate presentation. This includes: Departmental name change (paper), major name change (CIM), certificate name change (CIM).
5. Step 2A. Once the Step 1B name change is approved by MHEC and USM, AASD will create a CIM modification to align their major requirements published in the catalog with their current approved major program.
6. Step 2B. Once the Step 1C name change is approved by MHEC and USM, AASD will create a CIM modification to modify the UG certificate.
7. Step 3A. Once the department name change is approved (1A.), the department will create new courses with the AAAS prefix.
8. The department will have to replace scheduled AASP courses with the new AAAS courses during the course scheduling window.
9. Step 3A. Campus will retire AASP courses.
10. Step 3B. Department abbreviation update
11. Step 3C. Change name in DIV IT database

Step	Change	Details of Change	Action Steps for AAAS Team	Formal Submission Steps	Current Notes
Step 1 (A-C) should go through the process together so that they can be presented at the same Senate PCC and Senate meetings.					
1A.	Department Name Change	"African American	Cover letter must be	Attach the cover letter to	Katherine will write a cover



Step	Change	Details of Change	Action Steps for AAAS Team	Formal Submission Steps	Current Notes
		<p>Studies Department”</p> <p>to</p> <p>“African American and Africana Studies Department”</p>	<p>created and signed by Susan (Dean), Katherine (UG Dean), and Kristi (PCC Chair).</p> <p><a href="#">This is DONE. Here is a link to the final combined signed memo / proposal from BSOS.</a></p>	<p>to “Department Name Change Form,” which was submitted to Mike Colson by Ashley Newby on 4/5/23.</p> <p>Submit this as an email to Mike and also as an attachment in every CIM proposal.</p> <p>Done via PDF/Paper process.</p>	<p>letter that explains the request is only for (1) the department name change and (2) to request the new course prefix AAAS. The requests to rename the academic programs and program curricula will be submitted separately, because they are CIM processes. This PDF will be added as an attachment to the CIM name change proposals and also emailed to Mike with a copy of the original submission. This proposal will have to be approved by the Senate PCC committee, University Senate, and USM Chancellor.</p> <p>Done: <a href="#">Here is a copy of the combined memo &amp; proposal.</a></p>
1B.	Academic Major	“African	Dept will enter	Done via CIM	This must be

Step	Change	Details of Change	Action Steps for AAAS Team	Formal Submission Steps	Current Notes
	Name Change	American Studies Major”  to  “African American and Africana Studies Major”	in CIM & attach master PCC form with all proposed changes (Ashley’s original proposal)	program title change process for undergraduate major entry.  CIM Workflow <a href="https://coursele.af.umd.edu/programadmin/">https://coursele.af.umd.edu/programadmin/</a>	done and at campus level by October to have Fall 2025 launch. Can be done concurrent with 1C. This proposal will have to be approved by the Senate PCC committee, University Senate, USM Chancellor, and MHEC.
1C.	Academic Certificate Name Change	“African American Studies Certificate”  to  “African American and Africana Studies Certificate”  <i>(Note: Minor in African Studies, Minor in Black Women’s Studies and Minor in Anti-Black Racism will not change titles)</i>	Dept will enter in CIM & attach master PCC form with all proposed changes (Ashley’s original proposal)	Done via CIM program title change process for the undergraduate certificate entry.  CIM Workflow <a href="https://coursele.af.umd.edu/programadmin/">https://coursele.af.umd.edu/programadmin/</a>	Current curricular modification draft needs to be scrapped (Mike can do this) so that no curricular changes are included with the name change proposal.  This is a distinct PCC from 1A, but should be submitted at the same time as 1A.  This proposal will have to be approved by the Senate PCC committee, University Senate, USM Chancellor, and MHEC.

Step	Change	Details of Change	Action Steps for AAAS Team	Formal Submission Steps	Current Notes
<p>2A.</p> <p>Note: 1B must be approved fully before we can start this.</p>	<p>Curriculum Changes to the AASD/AAAS Major?</p>	<p>The Dept is not proposing any major changes at this time. However, the previous major change proposals were not completely executed and need to be aligned with a correct, approved curriculum.</p>	<p>Dept will modify the curriculum record to reflect the actual curriculum and 4 year plan.</p>	<p>CIM system (code 504)</p> <p>CIM Workflow <a href="https://courseleaf.umd.edu/progamadmin/">https://courseleaf.umd.edu/progamadmin/</a></p>	<p>Can be immediately working on this as a draft so that once 1B and 1C are approved, they can immediately submit.</p> <p>Note: I would work on a paper draft first then put in CIM.</p> <p>This proposal will have to be approved by the BSOS &amp; Senate PCC committees.</p>
<p>2B.</p> <p>Note: 1C must be approved fully before we can start this.</p>	<p>Curriculum Changes for the AASD/AAAS Certificate</p>	<p>Minor changes to the curriculum listed in the original proposal, with corrections for # of credits.</p>	<p>Dept needs to enter the proposed curriculum changes for the certificate in CIM. Per the 4/28/23 email chain, total credits need to be at least 21 for a certificate.</p>	<p>CIM system (code 503)</p> <p>CIM Workflow <a href="https://courseleaf.umd.edu/progamadmin/">https://courseleaf.umd.edu/progamadmin/</a></p>	<p>Last semester, the proposal was returned because the changes would have reduced the credits below the campus minimum. The proposal needs to be resubmitted. See policy for undergraduate certificates: <a href="https://provost.umd.edu/pcc/certificate">https://provost.umd.edu/pcc/certificate</a></p> <p>This proposal will have to be approved by the Senate</p>

Step	Change	Details of Change	Action Steps for AAAS Team	Formal Submission Steps	Current Notes
					PCC committee.
<p>3A. Note: Can be started as soon as the department name change (1A.) is approved.</p>	<p>Create AAAS courses based on existing AASP courses.</p>	<p>The department/college will create new AAAS course proposals for every existing AASP course that they plan to continue to offer.</p>	<p>Dept/College will go through the existing catalog of AASP courses and create a new duplicate proposal for the AAAS course which will replace it. All AASP courses will be retired at the end of this process.</p> <p>Course information should include Formerly and Credit Only Granted For information. Note that repeatable courses do not need the Credit Only Granted For information.</p>	<p>These are standard VPAC submissions:  CIM Workflow:  <a href="https://coursele.af.umd.edu/courseadmin/">https://coursele.af.umd.edu/courseadmin/</a>  All AAAS courses have to be submitted individually, but can be submitted at the same time.</p>	<p>3 step process: (1) create AAAS courses through VPAC process. (2) Retire AASP courses. (3) Remove AASP courses from the schedule and replace with AAAS courses.</p> <p>Note: This last step is a long process because courses are scheduled six months in advance. The AASP courses will have to be removed and replaced by the AAAS courses during the course scheduling window. There is training available on how to do this.</p>
<p>3B. Note: Can be started as soon as the department name change 1A. Is approved.</p>	<p>Department Informal Abbreviation Change</p>	<p>Change AFAM/AASD to AAAS</p>	<p>Chair should notify Laura Ours and Tom Bacho when a date is established to update all dept branding. This should coincide with</p>	<p>This is an informal change. Not a campus system change</p>	

Step	Change	Details of Change	Action Steps for AAAS Team	Formal Submission Steps	Current Notes
			the change in Department name.		
3C.  Note: Can be started as soon as the department name change 1A. is approved.)	Department Unit Name needs to change in Division of IT datatable of units.		Contact Huifang Pan in DIV IT for instructions: <a href="https://umd.servicenow.com/itsupport?id=kb_article_view&amp;sysparm_article=KB0012356&amp;sys_kb_id=1945caf1b1b8c1036c3a9fbbc4bcbdb">https://umd.servicenow.com/itsupport?id=kb_article_view&amp;sysparm_article=KB0012356&amp;sys_kb_id=1945caf1b1b8c1036c3a9fbbc4bcbdb</a> and this: <a href="https://umd.servicenow.com/sys_attachment.do?sys_id=f47400ef97983990b8253b0e6253af35&amp;view=true">https://umd.servicenow.com/sys_attachment.do?sys_id=f47400ef97983990b8253b0e6253af35&amp;view=true</a>		

Note that Katherine asked that a single document be created that includes a description for all of these changes in one document. That summary document should be attached to ALL of these separate processes. However, separate processes are also required.