Bachelor of Liberal Arts: Black Studies Emphasis

Students must take 30 hours of Black Studies courses to complete the emphasis area in Black Studies. A minimum of 24 hours of Black Studies courses must be at the 300 or 400 level or above. A minimum of 24 credit hours must be earned at UMKC.

The emphasis area in Black Studies assists students who want to obtain graduate and professional degrees in a variety of fields (master’s degrees, Ph.D.’s, law, public health, counseling, social work, educational administration, business, journalism, social work, medicine, library or information science, public policy, public administration, and so on) where specialized knowledge of the broad-based experiences and perspectives of African descent peoples would be useful. At the same time, students learn skill sets that are applicable to a wide variety of circumstances, which prepare them for entry-level positions in private industry, government, and public or non-profit agencies.

Students must pursue a humanities focus in Literature and Culture or a social science focus in Institutions and Social process, areas already existing as divisions in the BLA degree.

Humanities focus—Literature and Culture (15 hours):
- Under this focus the Black Studies emphasis will require four courses from the humanities track and one course from the social science track.

Social Science focus—Institutions and Social Process (15 hours):
- Under this focus the Black Studies emphasis will require four courses from the social science track and one course from the humanities track.

Among the courses from either track, students must take at least one course that significantly addresses Africa or the African Diaspora. Students who elect the Black Studies emphasis area under the BLA degree must seek advising through the Black Studies Program.

Students cannot earn credit toward the emphasis area in Black Studies with a grade below a C- in a Black Studies course.

To graduate with an emphasis area in Black Studies, students must achieve a minimum grade-point average of 2.0 in the courses accepted toward the emphasis area.