

Career Paths

AFRICANA STUDIES

Africana Studies provides an interdisciplinary background that helps students develop analytical, critical thinking, and writing skills while gaining knowledge about the lives and conditions of people from African descent in Africa, the United States, Latin America, and other communities. This understanding of multiculturalism is valued by employers in industries such as education, government, and business. Consider obtaining a double major or minor in another area to demonstrate specialized interests and increase your job prospects.

You may choose to study Africana Studies because you enjoy the subject but wish to pursue careers requiring “any major.” In this scenario, it is critical to develop skills relevant to targeted field through internships, part-time or summer jobs, or volunteer experiences.

Africana Studies majors are excellent candidates for a number of graduate school options because of their broad liberal arts background as well as specific interests that may set them apart from other students. For those wishing to pursue graduate education, maintain a high GPA, establish relationships with faculty to secure strong recommendations, and gain experience through volunteer, work, or research opportunities. Research areas of interest for specific program requirements.

Business & Industry

Example Career Paths: Training and development | Human resources | Equity and diversity functions | Management | Sales | Customer service | Marketing | Advertising | Public relations | Consulting

Potential Employers: Public and private corporations in various industries | Staffing agencies | Consulting firms | Marketing companies | Public relations agencies

Professional Associations: [African Politics Group](#) | [Africana Librarians Council](#)

Education

Example Career Paths: Teaching | Research | Student support services | Student affairs | Multicultural programming | Administration | Information/Library science

Potential Employers: University and colleges | Campus cultural centers | Support programs (e.g., Educational Advancement Program, Upward Bound School and community libraries) | Community organizations

Professional Associations: [National Council for Black Studies](#)

Human Services

Example Career Paths: Counseling/Therapy | Mental health services | Case management | Rehabilitation | Vocational training | Crisis services | Programming | Community relations and outreach | Fundraising/Development | Administration

Potential Employers: Mental health institutions | Hospitals and clinics | Residential treatment facilities | Private and group practice | Correctional institutions | Federal, state, or local government | Community action agencies | Nonprofit organizations

Professional Associations: [Association of Black Psychologists](#) | [National Association of Social Workers](#) | [National Association of Black Social Workers](#)

Advocacy

Example Career Paths: Domestic and international advocacy | Humanitarian services | Development (e.g., economic, community, housing) | Disaster/Disease relief | HIV/AIDS advocacy | Policy development | Program administration | Education | Volunteer coordination | Grant writing | Fundraising/Development

Potential Employers: Organizations committed to racial and civil rights (e.g., National Association of the Advancement for Colored People (NAACP), National Action Network, 100 Black Men) | Community action agencies | Nonprofit organizations (e.g., National Black Business Council) | Private voluntary organizations | Faith based organizations (FBOs) and churches | International aid and relief organizations | NGOs (Non-governmental Organizations) (e.g., Action Aid, Oxfam, International Red Cross) | State and local government agencies | Federal government agencies with an international focus | Federal government agencies with a community assistance focus

Professional Associations: [African Studies Association](#) | [African Politics Conference Group](#) | [US African Development Foundation](#)

Communication/Writing

Example Career Paths: Writing | Journalism | Editing | Publishing | Museum work

Potential Employers: Newspapers, magazines, websites | Broadcast media companies including television, movie, and radio | Trade, professional, or consumer publications | Publications and internet sites marketed toward African Americans (e.g., Ebony, Essence) | Advertising agencies | Publishing houses | Large corporations | Self-employment/freelance | Museums and galleries

Professional Associations: [Africana Librarians Council](#)

Law and Politics

Example Career Paths: Law | Lobbying | Government relations | Elected or appointed leadership | Public policy | Research | Intelligence | Campaign management | Special interest advocacy | Immigration services | Program administration

Potential Employers: Law firms | Corporate legal departments | Public defender offices | District attorneys | Public interest groups (e.g., Southern Poverty Law Center) | Legal aid | Sole practitioner | Government agencies (e.g., US African Development Agency) | Lobbying groups

Professional Associations: [NAACP](#)

Preparing for your Career

- Africana Studies provides an interdisciplinary background that helps students develop analytical, critical thinking, and writing skills while gaining knowledge about the lives and conditions of people from African descent in Africa, the United States, Latin America, and other communities. This understanding of multiculturalism is valued by employers in industries such as education, government, and business.
- Africana Studies combines interdisciplinary approaches such as humanities literature and social science analytic methods in the critique of social dominance norms.
- Consider obtaining a double major or minor in another area to demonstrate specialized interests and increase your job prospects.
- Some students may choose to study Africana Studies because they enjoy the subject but wish to pursue careers requiring “any major.” In this scenario, it is critical to develop skills relevant to targeted field through internships, part-time or summer jobs, or volunteer experiences.
- Africana Studies majors are excellent candidates for a number of graduate school options because of their broad liberal arts background as well as specific interests that may set them apart from other students. For those wishing to pursue graduate education, maintain a high GPA, establish relationships with faculty to secure strong recommendations, and gain experience through volunteer, work, or research opportunities. Research areas of interest for specific program requirements.
- Find opportunities to get involved in campus organizations and activities related to multiculturalism and diversity. Seek leadership roles on programming boards or join minority mentoring programs.

This resource was adapted from What Can I Do With My Major.

For more, visit <https://web.uri.edu/career/wcidwmm/>

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What Can I Do With This Major? features 100 major profiles with information on common career paths, types of employers that hire in the field, and strategies to maximize opportunities. Scroll to the...

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