

# 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.

## AREAS OF OPPORTUNITY

- Teaching
- Research
- Student support services
- Student affairs
- Multicultural programming
- Administration
- Counseling/Therapy
- Mental health services
- Case management
- Rehabilitation
- Vocational training
- Crisis services
- Disaster/Disease relief

Universities and colleges  
Campus cultural centers  
Support programs (e.g., Educational Advancement Program, Upward Bound School and community libraries)  
Community organizations  
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

## COMMON EMPLOYERS



## PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS



- [African Studies Association](#)
- [African Politics Group](#)
- [Africana Librarians Council](#)



## STRATEGIES ON ENTERING THE FIELD

- Supplement curriculum with courses in psychology, social work, or child and family studies. Consider a double major or minor.
- Obtain a graduate degree in psychology, counseling, or social work to provide therapy.
- Gain experience through volunteer opportunities, internships, and/or part-time jobs. Develop multicultural competence.
- Volunteer with organizations that assist people of diverse backgrounds, such as ones providing services to refugees and immigrants.
- Participate in training opportunities (e.g., suicide prevention or crisis hotline response.)
- Learn to work well with different types of people and gain experience working with diverse clientele.
- Acquire knowledge of government and community resources available for those in need.
- Seek leadership roles on campus such as Peer Mentor, Resident Advisor, or Orientation Leader.
- Join related professional associations as a student member. Get involved with multicultural programming boards
- .Develop strong communication and public speaking skills.
- Secure strong recommendations from faculty and maintain a high GPA to gain admittance to graduate school.