Introduction

The Africana & Latino Studies Major combines methods of ‘traditional’ disciplines (history, economics, literature, philosophy, sociology, etc.) to analyze the Black and Latino experience in the Americas & nations of origin, e.g., in Africa, the Caribbean, and Latin America. Our curriculum focuses on issues, ideas, and historical movements that have had a direct impact on Latino peoples and peoples of African descent. Although race and ethnicity as social factors continue to be addressed by our department, we are deeply concerned with the ways they intersect with today’s issues such as global warming, environmental degradation, the socio-economic problems of minority youth, the needs of women of color, interests of immigrants and refugees, the challenges of upward mobility, bilingualism and language issues, and the minority presence within the American business community.

Functional Skill Set for Africana & Latino Studies Majors

- Ability to develop ideas and use basic problem solving skills
- Interest in working and building ideas with others
- Gathering information and conducting research
- Translating difficult ideas into common terminology
- Communicating effectively through; writing, and oral presentation
- Appreciation for different perspectives on Race, Class and Gender
- Ease of incorporating interdisciplinary learning and teaching methods
- Understanding the practical significance of academic experiences
- Ability to make judgment in an unbiased manner
- Comparing translations and interpretation of dated text
- Ability to speak and/or read and comprehend Multiple Languages
Related Career Titles for Africana & Latino Studies Majors

- Anthropologists
- Clergy
- Curators
- Customs Inspectors
- Economists
- Elected Officials
- Foreign Service Officers
- Geographers
- Government Service Executives
- High School teachers
- Historians
- Human Resources Personnel
- Immigration Officers
- Import/Export Specialists
- International Relations
- Lawyers
- Lobbyists
- Managers
- Market Research Analysts
- Museum Technicians and Conservators
- Peace Corp Workers
- Political Scientists
- Psychologists
- Public Relations
- Sociologists
- Social Workers
- Tour Guides
- Translators
- Travel Planners
- University and College Professors
- Urban Planners
- Writers/ Novelists

Some Organizations that Typically Employ Africana & Latino Studies Majors:

- Advocacy Groups
- Airlines
- Banks
- Community Outreach Groups
- Consulting Firms
- Cruise Lines
- Cultural Education Centers
- Embassies
- Fashion
- Government Agencies
- Historical Societies
- Hotels
- Law Firms
- Marketing
- Military
- Museums
- Public Policy
- Publishing Companies
- Radio and TV Stations
- Research
- Retail
- Shelters
- Travel Agencies
- United Nations
- Visitor Center
Start a Strategic Plan

- Volunteer to do Research.
- Join professional Organization.
- Become well-versed in a Second or Third Language.
- Learn to work independently and as part of a team.
- Take on leadership roles in clubs or organizations.
- Participate in an Internship, or part-time job related to Africana & Latino Studies.
- Participate in a Study Abroad program to learn or use a foreign language and experience cultural immersion.

Professional Organizations and Associations for Africana & Latino Studies Majors:

The Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action  
[www.cafra.org](http://www.cafra.org)

Forum for African Women Educationalists  
[www.fawe.org](http://www.fawe.org)

Latin American Studies Association  
[Lasainternational.pitt.edu](http://Lasainternational.pitt.edu)

National Association of African American Studies & Affiliates  
[www.naaas.org](http://www.naaas.org)

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### Africana Studies

#### What can I do with this major?

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<th>AREAS</th>
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<td><strong>EDUCATION</strong>&lt;br&gt;Teaching&lt;br&gt;Research&lt;br&gt;Student Support Services&lt;br&gt;Student Affairs&lt;br&gt;Multicultural Programming&lt;br&gt;Administration&lt;br&gt;Information/Library Science</td>
<td>Universities and colleges&lt;br&gt;Campus cultural centers&lt;br&gt;Support programs, e.g. Educational Advancement Program, Upward Bound&lt;br&gt;School and community libraries&lt;br&gt;Community organizations</td>
<td>Earn a Ph.D. to teach and research at four-year institutions. The interdisciplinary nature of Africana studies makes it good preparation for advanced education in a variety of fields in the humanities and social sciences. Obtain a master's degree in student affairs or library/information science if interested in those areas. Get involved in leadership roles on campus such as peer mentor, resident advisor, or orientation leader. Join related professional associations as a student member. Volunteer to assist a professor with research or take an independent study class. Develop strong communication and public speaking skills. Secure strong recommendations from faculty, and maintain a high grade point average.</td>
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<td><strong>HUMAN SERVICES</strong>&lt;br&gt;Counseling&lt;br&gt;Psychotherapy&lt;br&gt;Mental Health Services&lt;br&gt;Case Management&lt;br&gt;Programming&lt;br&gt;Community Relations&lt;br&gt;Fundraising/Development&lt;br&gt;Administration</td>
<td>Mental health institutions&lt;br&gt;Hospitals and clinics&lt;br&gt;Residential treatment facilities&lt;br&gt;Private and group practice&lt;br&gt;Correctional institutions&lt;br&gt;Federal, state, or local government, including: Department of Human Services, Veterans Administration&lt;br&gt;Organizations that aid minorities, immigrants, and refugees or focus on cultural issues&lt;br&gt;Youth organizations and camps including YMCA, Boys and Girls Club&lt;br&gt;Nonprofit and social services organizations including United Way, Red Cross, Goodwill Industries, Salvation Army, etc.</td>
<td>Supplement curriculum with courses in psychology, social work, or child and family studies. Obtain a graduate degree in psychology, counseling, or social work for increased counseling opportunities or advancement into administrative work. Gain essential practical experience through part-time or summer jobs and internships. 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.</td>
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<td>AREAS</td>
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<td><strong>ADVOCA VY</strong></td>
<td><strong>Black organizations, e.g. National Association of the Advancement for Colored People (NAACP), National Action Network, 100 Black Men</strong></td>
<td><strong>Volunteer at relevant local social service agencies to gain experience and demonstrate interest.</strong></td>
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<td>Domestic and International Advocacy</td>
<td>Community action agencies</td>
<td>Participate in campus ”alternative break” trips or church-led mission trips to places such as the Caribbean, South America, or Africa.</td>
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<td>Humanitarian Services</td>
<td>Nonprofit organizations, e.g. National Black Business Council</td>
<td>Develop excellent research, writing, communication, and organizational skills. Learn how to motivate individuals and groups.</td>
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<td>Development: Economic</td>
<td>Private voluntary organizations</td>
<td>Earn leadership roles in campus organizations, e.g. the NAACP.</td>
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<td>Community</td>
<td>Faith based organizations (FBO’s) and churches</td>
<td>Learn a language spoken in Africa, e.g. Swahili or Zulu. Plan to study abroad or volunteer in Africa.</td>
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<td>Housing</td>
<td>International aid and relief organizations</td>
<td>Seek cultural experiences on campus and get involved with the international student population.</td>
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<td>Disaster/Disease Relief</td>
<td>NGO’s (Non-governmental Organizations), e.g. Action Aid, Oxfam, International Red Cross</td>
<td>Plan to move to larger communities for more opportunities.</td>
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<td>HIV/AIDS Advocacy</td>
<td>Federal government agencies with an international focus, e.g. Peace Corps, USAID, and the Foreign Service (State Department) or focus on community assistance, e.g. Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Health and Human Services</td>
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<td>Policy Development</td>
<td>State and local government agencies</td>
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<td>Program Administration</td>
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<td>Education</td>
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<td>Volunteer Coordination</td>
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<td>Grant Writing</td>
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<td>Fundraising/Development</td>
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<td><strong>BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY</strong></td>
<td><strong>Public and private corporations in various industries</strong></td>
<td><strong>Double major or minor in business.</strong></td>
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<td><em>Training and Development</em></td>
<td><strong>including:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Gain business experience through internships or part-time and summer jobs.</strong></td>
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<td><em>Human Resources</em></td>
<td>Banks and financial institutions</td>
<td><strong>Become current with business and industry literature and news.</strong></td>
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<td><em>Equity and Diversity Functions</em></td>
<td>Insurance companies</td>
<td><strong>Join campus organizations or professional societies and seek leadership roles.</strong></td>
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<td><em>Management</em></td>
<td>Retail stores</td>
<td><strong>Understand the top skills employers desire and be prepared to demonstrate them, such as communication (oral and written), computer, interpersonal, leadership, and teamwork.</strong></td>
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<td><em>Sales</em></td>
<td>Hotels and restaurants</td>
<td><strong>Conduct informational interviews with professionals to learn more about career fields.</strong></td>
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<td><em>Marketing</em></td>
<td>Consumer goods manufacturers</td>
<td><strong>When job searching, seek employers interested in hiring “any major.”</strong></td>
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<td><em>Advertising</em></td>
<td>Businesses targeting a Black clientele</td>
<td><strong>Learn how to sell your Africana Studies major to companies that value cultural diversity.</strong></td>
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<td><em>Public Relations</em></td>
<td>Staffing agencies</td>
<td><strong>Be willing to start in a management-trainee program or other entry-level positions.</strong></td>
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<td><em>Consulting</em></td>
<td>Consulting firms</td>
<td><strong>Earn an MBA or a graduate degree in another area of interest for more advanced opportunities.</strong></td>
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## AREAS

### COMMUNICATION/Writing
- Journalism
- Creative Writing
- Freelance Writing
- Copy Writing
- Editing
- Research and Analysis

### EMPLOYERS
- Newspapers
- Magazines
- Broadcast media companies including television and movie industry
- 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

### STRATEGIES
Pair an interest in Africana Studies with communication skills to write about Blacks, write on topics of interest to minorities, or for publications targeting a Black audience.

Obtain a minor in English or journalism or take other writing-focused classes.

Write for campus publications such as college newspapers, magazines, or department/program newsletters.

Volunteer to assist or tutor students in a writing center.

Intern with a publishing house, magazine, or other relevant organization.

Create a portfolio of writing samples, especially those that have been published.

Seek opportunities for recognition and networking through writing contests and freelance writing submissions.

Become familiar with the proposal and submission process involved in freelance writing.

## LAW AND POLITICS

### Law:
- Corporate Practice
- Public Interest Law
- Civil Law
- Lobbying
- Government Relations
- Elected or Appointed Leadership
- Public Policy
- Research
- Intelligence
- Campaign Management
- Special Interest Advocacy
- Program Administration

### EMPLOYERS
- Law firms
- Corporate legal departments
- Public defenders 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

### STRATEGIES
Obtain the J.D. for law positions or an advanced degree in political science, public administration, or public policy for government positions.

Supplement curriculum with relevant courses to prepare for law school.

Maintain a high grade point average and secure strong faculty recommendations.

Prepare for and take the Law School Admission Test (LSAT).

Participate in activities that develop strong debate and public speaking skills such as mock trial.

Get involved with the pre-law society on campus.

Gain relevant experience through jobs or internships with law firms, government agencies, or mediation centers.
GENERAL INFORMATION

• 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.

• When paired with a major in another field, Africana Studies can enhance the employability of a student because of a deeper understanding of the African-American experience, culture, and history which many organizations will value. Training in this field can lead to a better appreciation of certain customers or clients.

• 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.