AFRICANA STUDIES

What can I do with this major?

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

EDUCATION

Teaching Research Student Support Services Student Affairs Multicultural Programming Administration Information/Library Science Universities and colleges
Campus cultural centers
Support programs, e.g. Educational Advancement
Program, Upward Bound
School and community libraries
Community organizations

Earn a doctorate degree for teaching and research at four-year institutions.

Obtain a master's degree for positions in student affairs administration or library/information science.

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.

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 GPA to gain admittance to graduate school.

HUMAN SERVICES

Counseling/Therapy
Mental Health Services
Case Management
Rehabilitation
Vocational Training
Crisis Services
Programming
Community Relations and Outreach
Fundraising/Development
Administration

Mental health institutions
Hospitals and clinics
Residential treatment facilities
Private and group practice
Correctional institutions
Federal, state, or local government, including:
Department of Human Services
Veterans Administration

Organizations that aid minorities, immigrants, and refugees or focus on cultural issues

Youth organizations and camps including YMCA, Boys and Girls Club

Nonprofit and social services organizations including: United Way, Red Cross, Goodwill Industries, Salvation Army, etc.

Immigrant and refugee service providers

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.

AREAS

ADVOCACY

Domestic and International Advocacy

Humanitarian Services

Development:

Economic

Community

Housing

Disaster/Disease Relief

HIV/AIDS Advocacy

Policy Development

Program Administration

Education

Volunteer Coordination

Grant Writing

Fundraising/Development

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 (FBO's) and churches International aid and relief organizations

NGO's (Non-governmental Organizations), e.g. Action Aid. Oxfam. International Red Cross

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

State and local government agencies

STRATEGIES

Volunteer at relevant local social service agencies to gain experience and demonstrate interest.

Participate in campus "alternative break" trips or church-led mission trips to places such as the Caribbean, South America, or Africa.

Develop excellent research, writing, communication, and organizational skills. Learn how to motivate individuals and groups.

Gain leadership roles in campus organizations, e.g. the NAACP.

Learn a language spoken in Africa, e.g. Swahili or Zulu. Plan to study abroad or volunteer in Africa.

Seek cultural experiences on campus and get involved with the international student population.

Earn a relevant graduate degree to prepare for this work.

More opportunities exist in urban areas and large communities.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

Training and Development

Human Resources

Equity and Diversity Functions

Management

Sales

Customer Service

Marketing

Advertising

Public Relations

Consulting

Public and private corporations in various industries including:

Banks and financial institutions

Insurance companies

Retail stores

Hotels and restaurants

Consumer goods manufacturers

Businesses targeting a Black clientele

Staffing agencies

Consulting firms

Marketing companies

Public relations agencies

Double major or minor in business.

Gain business experience through internships and/ or part-time jobs.

Join campus organizations or professional societies and seek leadership roles.

Understand the top skills employers desire and be prepared to demonstrate them, such as communication (oral and written), computer, interpersonal, leadership, and teamwork.

Conduct informational interviews with professionals to learn more about career fields.

When job searching, seek employers interested in hiring "any major."

Learn how to sell your Africana Studies major to companies that value cultural diversity.

Be willing to start in a management-trainee program or other entry-level positions.

Earn an MBA or a graduate degree in another area of interest for greater opportunities.

AREAS

COMMUNICATION/WRITING

Journalism

Writing:

Creative

Freelance

Copy

Editing

Publishing

Museum Work:

Curatorship

Exhibition Design

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

STRATEGIES

Take courses in English, journalism, and/or communications. Consider a double major or minor.

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 organizations.

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

Create a portfolio of writing samples.

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

Obtain a graduate degree for museum work.

LAW AND POLITICS

Law:

Corporate

Public Interest

Civil

International

Lobbying

Government Relations

Elected or Appointed Leadership

Public Policy

Research

Intelligence

Campaign Management

Special Interest Advocacy

Immigration Services

Program Administration

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

Obtain a 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.

Consider a double major or minor in areas such as economics, political science, or history.

Maintain a high GPA 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.

Consider studying abroad for international experience.

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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. 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.
- 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 activies related to multiculturalism and diversity. Seek leadership roles on programming boards or join minority mentoring programs.